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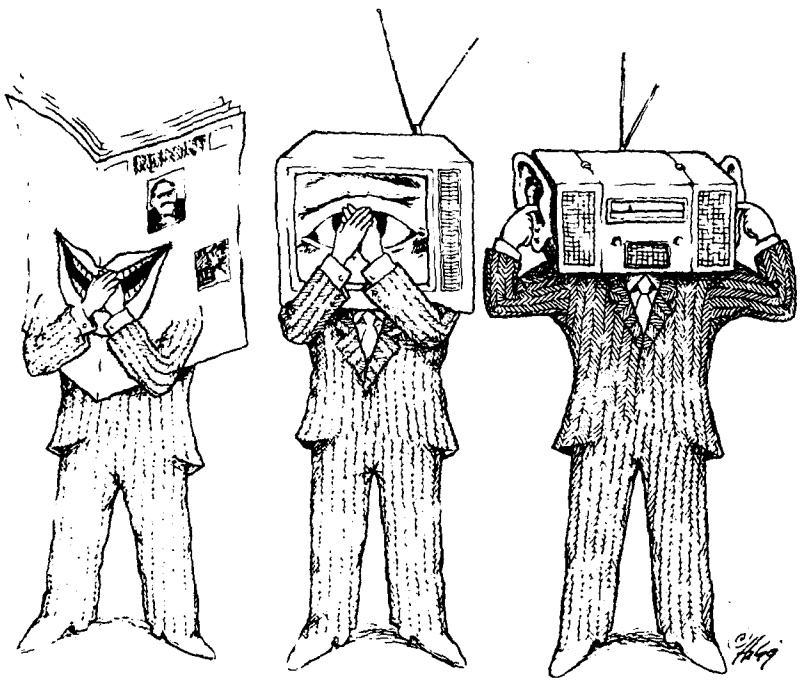
JULY-AUGUST 1986

The Progressive Review

Women & Automation

South Africa & America's Cities



DC's looming waste crisis

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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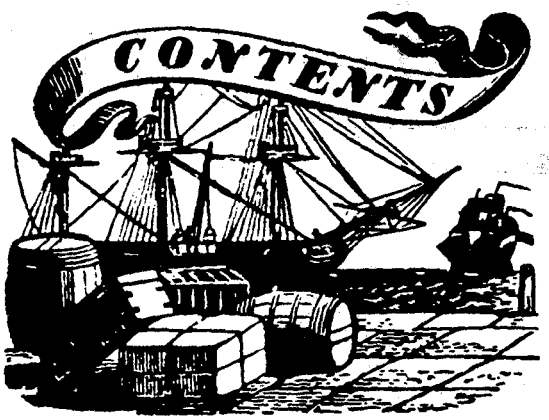

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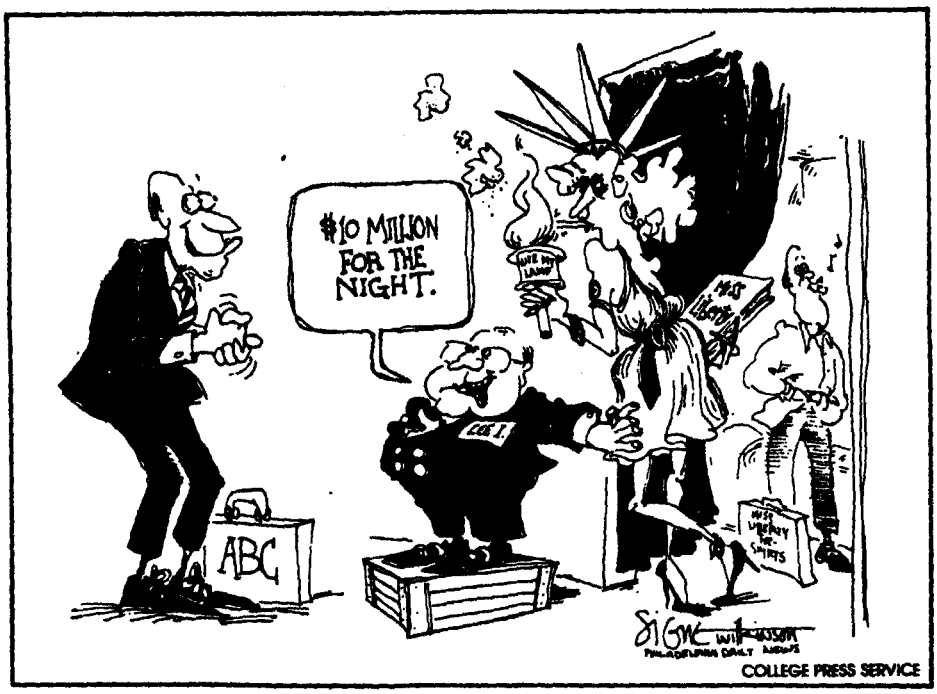
THE WEATHER REPORT



Africa

In a significant shift of focus, the free South Africa Movement has launched a Shell Oil Boycott Campaign. After attempting to influence the American government for a year, the movement has now turned its attention to the private sector. Royal Dutch/Shell (Shell Oil's parent company) helps support the South African government by supplying fuel for the military and the police as well as the apartheid economy. Also, Royal Dutch/Shell has engaged in union busting at South Africa's Rietspruit coal mine. In response to requests from the National Union of Mine Workers, the largest black union in South Africa, Shell Oil has been selected as the target of the FSAM campaign.

Shell Oil is the largest and most profitable subsidiary of Royal Dutch/Shell in America. The FSAM is encouraging all investors, both individual and institutional, to divest their holdings in all Royal Dutch/Shell subsidiaries. The campaign also requests that consumers destroy their Shell Oil credit cards.

A coalition of anti-apartheid activists have formed the first PAC focused on South Africa. Gary Walker, executive director of "Americans Against Apartheid," stressed the organization was organized to elect congressmen who oppose U.S. "constructive engagement" and who stand for firm action against the South African government.

The advisory committee's members range from Nobel-winner Dr. Christian Anfinsen to former Senator Paul Tsongas and D.C. Delegate Fauntroy. The board of directors includes Robert Browne, former Executive Director to the African Development Fund; and former Republican Congressman John Buchanan, who told a press conference,"The most basic law of all is on our side: the law that says all of us must be free."

AAA is notable among anti-

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aprtheid organizations because its focus is so specific. It will raise oney to spend on targeted campaigns, where it feels its funds can make a difference between a candidate who agrees with its principles and one who doesn't. "We will be not just legal but ethical" says Browne, "People who don't like PAC's will find this an acceptable kind."

The average PAC contributes only 17% of the money it raises to candidates, according to Walker. AAA aims to contribute 75% of the money it raises, both by keeping overhead low (it will be staffed by volounteers) and by ruling out so-callee "independent expenditures" which allow PACs to spend unlimited money independent of any campaign committees. AAA stresses that they will support both Republican aand Democratic candidates who agree with them, and states that "The sincerity of the officials of the Reagan Administration and its preference to see an end to apartheid are not being questioned."

AAA appears to be filling a hole in the extensive coalition of anti-apartheid movements. Though it only expects to raise 50,000 dollars for the 1986 campaign, AAA hopes to be a strong force in time for the 1988 elections. — JOHN PLOTZ

Health

Up to a million healthy job-seekers every year are forced to have X-rays for potential back problems because employer's medical compensation for back injuries is so costly. Not only are these X-rays unreliable, they are a "significant factor" in the development of bone cancer in offspring, according to Professor Roger Kasperson of Clark University.

More and more young people are turning to Alcoholics Anonymous for help. One out of five AA members is now aged 30 or under, a threefold increase in the last 15 years. Alcohol also is not their only problem: the survey found 58% of the younger men and 64% of the women were also addicted to other drugs.

A major study on acquired immune deficiency syndrome says prostitutes are not to blame for the spread of AIDS into the United States' heterosexual population. The year long study by two San Fransisco researchers involved 400 women who were all considered at high risk of contracting AIDS, such as prostitutes, intravenous drug users or the sexual partners of bisexual men or men who used intravenous drugs. The researchers, who now plan to expand their study to look specifically at prostitutes, says hookers are less apt to spread AIDS than women who use intravenous drugs or women who have sex with hundreds of men without following "safe sex" guidelines. By contrast, points out Priscilla Alexander of the prostitutes' support group, Coyote, prostitutes commonly insist that their customers use condoms, avoid oral sex or contact with bodily fluids, and, in cases where they do contract AIDS, take steps to avoid spreading it to others. Ironically, Alexander claims, police crackdowns on prostitutes may actually discourage AIDS prevention, since police confiscate condoms to use as evidence in court against the women they arrest for prostitution. Because of this, the women do not carry condoms and must buy them between clients, rather than risk having them found in their possession. So far, only 16 cases of AIDS among U.S. heterosexuals have been attributed to contact with prostitutes. Says study director Judith Cohen, "it is the non-prostitutes who scare us most. They are positive for AIDS but then go out and are just as sexually active as before."

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Peace

The former Director of Communications for Pro-Peace, the group that attempted to sponsor the Great Peace March across America, claims that the march organizers used techniques designed to "blow smoke and flash mirrors creating the illusion of momentum." This strategy, says Howard Cushnir, was used to divert public attention from major weaknesses, such as lack of support from traditional antinuclear groups, lagging finances, internal dissension and slow recruitment of marchers.

Cushnir also charges in a recent issue of Mother Jones that Pro-Peace director David Mixner "operated as if he were accountable to no one." A series of disagreements and a feeling that things were being badly mismanaged caused Cushnir to quit in January, saying that he could no longer promote something he could not even remotely control. Pro-Peace ended up going broke by mid-March, leaving the Great Peace March stranded in the California desert. Mother Jones reports that only two weeks earlier, the group had paid Melissa Manchester $15,000 and the band Mr. Mister $50,000 to appear at a City Hall send-off.

A small but hardy band continues to march without the support of the original sponsor.

Insurance

New York state is moving towards an important compromise plan to deal with the insurance crisis. As the New York Times notes, the plan "represents a compromise between Democrats, who had argued that the skyrocketing rates resulted from mismanagement by the insurance industry and inadequate regulation, and Republicans, who contended that the problem was in the court system and in monetary awards that were too high. The plan includes a number of elements that other jurisdictions might want to consider:

- The state insurance suprintendent gets the right, after hearings, to limit how much an insurer could raise or lower rates. At present, there are no limits.
- The superintendent could require the provision of insurance under a statewide insurance pool to prevent insurance strikes in certain types of coverage, such as that for day care centers.
- Local jurisdicitions could form insurance pools under which they would share each other's liability costs.
- Non-profit organizations would gain immunity to lawsuits, in most instances, against directors and officers who served without compensation.
- Juries could stretch out payment of awards of more than $250,000 and judges could fine litigants for frivolous suits.
- Modifying the "deep-pocket" theory, the plan would only force a party to pay all of an award if it was responsibile for at least 51% of the victim's pain and suffering.
- Victims of long-term effects of certain toxic substances could file suit for damages during a one-year period despite the expiration of the statute of limitation.

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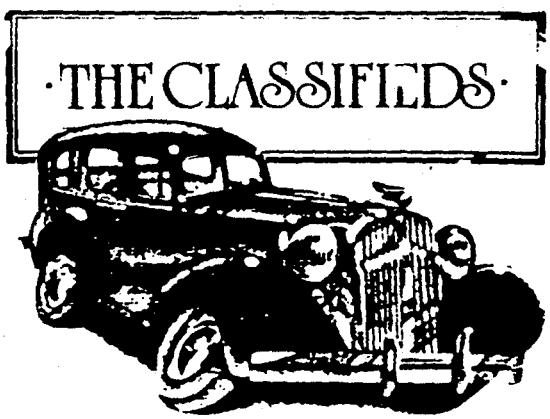
Politics

Bernie Sanders, the Socialist mayor of Burlington, Vt., has launched his candidacy for governor of his state. Claiming that there was little difference between incumbent Democrat Madeleine Kunin and her Republican opponent, Sanders is expected to cut into Kunin's margin, perhaps enough to throw the election into the Republican-controlled legislature for decision.



Classified ads are ten cents a word. Count your own words and send payment with ad to the Progressive Review, 1739 Conn. Ave NW, DC 20009

RECON keeps its eye on the Pentagon and wins awards for "Best Censored Stories." Fora free sample, write to RECON, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia PA 19134.

THE SAMARITANS are trying to prevent suicide in the DC metro area by providing a 24-hour hotline. The Samaritans need volunteers to staff the line — and provides a training course to prepare you. Info: 362-8100.

HOLY PHENOMENA resulting in physical discovery of human soul by artist Roger henry is being blocked. 2252 Westchester Ave, Bronx NY 10462

PROGRESSIVE PERIODICALS DIRECTORY: Good for networking, publicity, subscription details on 400 priodicals about peace, health, environment, culture, international ... entire left. $4. From Box E-120574, Nashville 37212.

SECURITY THROUGH FEAR?

"Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear— kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor—with the cry of grave national emergency . . . Always there has been some terrible evil to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it by furnishing the exorbitant sums demanded. Yet, in retrospect, these disasters seem never to have happened, seem never to have been quite real."

General Douglas MacArthur, 1957

"Democracies will not sacrifice to protect their security in the absence of a sense of danger. And every time we create the impression that we and the Soviets are cooperating and moderating the competition, we diminish that sense of apprehension."

Richard Perle, 1983
Assistant Secretary of Defense

-Center for Defense Information

The sexes

Now that states and cities across the nation are adopting one form or another of comparable worth principles, private industry is following suit. Firms like Bankamerica Corporation, Levi Strauss, IBM and ATT are among major companies that have taken to heart the idea that jobs should be paid on the basis of value rather than sex or race. Claudia Wayne, executive director of the Washington based National Committee on Pay Equity, says such companies are "a small but growing number."

Most companies avoid calling their plans "pay equity" because of the term's feminist overtones. IBM prefers to call its new guidelines a "merit-pay system." Bankamerica also denies trying to redress sex discrimination in its workforce. However, the bank's new job evaluation procedures have expanded the definition of physical labor to include strain on fingers, eyes and back. This has upgraded pay for jobs such as the predominantly female job of teller to match the

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pay of predominantly male maintenance workers.

Wayne points out that since the state of Minnesota adopted comparable worth provisions, the number of female employees in state government increased 6%, and the number of women in non-traditional jobs increased 19%. Says Wayne, "pay equity removes the barrier of pay discrimination from a job choice."

There is one thing a woman who gets pregnant after age 35 should not expect and that is to have a larger bundle of medical problems than the woman under 35. Reversing the long time warning that pregnancy after the mid-30s is a "high risk" endeavor, both the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Deveopment now say most healthy over-35s can safely give birth to healthy children as easily as younger women. The medical groups are basing their reassuring words on such studies as one done at a Long Beach, California medical center last year. That study, involving more than 1000 births among women aged 35 or over and more than 5000 births among women aged 20 to 25, found older women may face greater risks of miscarriage, diabetes or high blood pressure, but on the other hand, are more apt to have infants of normal birth weight and less apt to require anesthesia, suffer from maternal fever disorders or deliver infants needing intensive care facilities.

As Dr. Charles Hamrell, chair of the Obstetrics Department at Santa Monica Hospital's Medical Center, put it in the Los Angeles Times:"if you have a healthy woman over 35 and her body is working well, she is going to do just as well as a younger woman."

Divorced parents are now more likely than not to get joint custody of children in California divorces. In 1979 only 25% of divorce cases ended in joint legal custody, while today 75% of all divorce decrees are decided this way, which means both parents have the right to make major decisions about the child's welfare, but only one may have "residential" custody. Joint residential custody is also becoming more popular.

The shift has been attributed to changing perceptions of sex roles. According to researchers Eleanor Maccoby and Barbara Kimball Browning, both fathers' rights and feminist groups have succeeded in changing the laws, which presumed maternal custody as the norm. "In most cases they have been replaced by gender-neutral wording that calls for custodial arrangements to be based on the best interests of the child ... California law now

***JUMP CUT* No. 31**

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embodies a presumption for joint custody if both parents agree." This is in contrast to the past, when even parents who agreed to joint custody had to battle the court and attorneys who wanted single custody. Thirty other states now also have some form of joint custody legislation.

A poll of female executives in California found them tougher and more committed to their careers than men. Twice as many women as men called people they work with "less than honest." They favored harsher penalties for drug use or account-padding on the job, but were more forgiving of intra-office affairs. Only 28% of men put careers as their first priority, compared to 40% of women, and women were more likely to pass up a child's graduation for business, and more likely to be single or divorced. And their cold comfort for all this is an average salary of only $68,000 a year, compared to $94,000 for men.

The women of Nicaragua, a predominantly Catholic country, are calling for the country's government to extend their revolution to abortion laws. Abortion is illegal in Nicaragua and carries with it a possible sentence of four years in prison. However, the rise of the Sandinistas has resulted in an unofficial loosening of abortion restrictions. According to Milu Vargas, the director of the legal office of the Nicaraguan Congress, "Every day, abortion is a little more legal." Although the wife of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has urged women to wait until the revolution is secure before pushing further on abortion, Vargas responded, "We did not make a revolution for rice and beans. Reagan could give us rice and beans. We made a revolution for new ideas and values."

In a recent policy shift, large foundations have begun to finance birth control advocates. The impetus for this change appears to come from last year's study by the Allan Guttmacher Institute on teenage pregnancy, childbearing and abortion. According to Joy Drofoos, a consultant to the Rockefeller and Carnegie foundations, it has become "respectable" to fund "prevention programs." She believes that, "New ideas about adolescent pregnancy, such as school-based clinics and broader sex-education curriculum, have captured the foundations' attention." This new found interest in pregnancy issues represents a dramatic reversal of previous foundation practices. According to *The New York Times*, from 1980 to 1984, only 1.7%, 112 million, of all grants by big-name foundations went o "population" issues. Less than 1% of that amount went to issues related to birth control.

Economics

Connecticut credit card users are enjoying the lowest finance charges in the nation, thanks to a rate-war sparked by new legislation.

Irving Stolberg, a New Haven Democrat, introduced a bill that prohibits banks charging more than 15% interest on any purchase made with a credit card. Although banks initially lambasted the bill and threatened to retaliate against credit card consumers by limiting distribution, raising fees and eliminating the interest-free "grace period," the legislation has resulted in fierce banking industry competition.

The decrease in most credit card interest rates--which plummeted from 18% to 12% in a few short weeks--may spread across state lines. The new rates promotions, some as low as 11.8%, are expected to jump back up to 15% later this year. Connecticut banks have launched an all-out effort to woo 250,000 Connecticut cardholders away from higher-priced out-of-state banks which currently service them. The out-of-state banks--many of which charge interest rates of 19.6% or more -- may be forced to drop their rates, which in turn could cause a chain reaction throughout the country.

Stolberg plans to carry his consumer campaign nationwide. He is contacting legislative leaders in other states to provide them with information and to urge them to follow Connecticut's lead.

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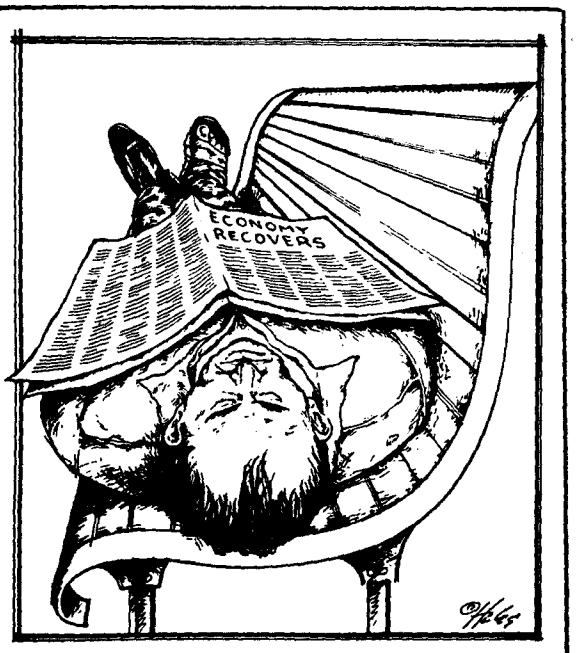
Children

About two-thirds of the 1.5 child abuse cases reported this year will be unfounded, according to Douglas Besharove, the former director of the National Center on Child Abuse. Many cases are filed, he says, by angry or vindictive relatives, especially during custody battles. Not only are they traumatic for the children forced to undergo an investigation, such cases also overload child-protection agencies so they cannot cope with real cases. Unfairly-accused parents have formed "Victims of Child Abuse Laws" (VOCAL) which has chapters in all 50 states and Canada.

Despite claims to the contrary, University of Wisconsin history professor Linda Gordon has found that child abuse is no more common now than it was a century ago. Gordon studied the records of several social-service agencies in Boston between 1880 and 1960 and discovered that the number of child abuse cases had not risen appreciably.



The cartoon above, which appeared on the cover of our March 1985 issue, was also featured on the cover of the recently published Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year by Pelican. It is by Dan Hubig of Pacific News Service.

Government

Census officials are worried about a national boycott of the 1990 census. A test poll in Los Angeles got only half the expected results among minority residents in 20 southern California communities. People apparently fear data on income and job status will be shared with welfare, immigration and other government agencies. The information is, however, protected by law, and the Census Bureau claims there has never been a leak.

Media

In story about the American press, of the sort you won't read in the American press, Vittorio Zucconi of Rome's La Repubblica offers some interesting statistics:

- Five newspaper groups publish more than a third of the daily newspapers read every day in the US.
- 98% of American daily newspapers have no competition.
- In the 1984 presidential election, 95% of all newspapers belonging to the same group supported the same candidate.
- Before some ninety papers were absorbed into the Gannett chain, the papers had an average of 45 editorial staff members each. Today the average is 26.
- At a recent national association meeting of investigative reporters (which has 1100 active members), there were only six fulltime business investigative business reporters.

Says Zucconi, "Paradoxically, the press railed against the multinationals when the latter did not threaten the press, and it is silent as they choke it."

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Each year Project Censored at Sonoma State University in California gives an award to the ten best censored stories over the past 12 months. RECON Network, whose services the Review uses, won two awards, including one for the report on the Air Force's GWEN communications system that we ran last issue.

Education

A college degree in English may do more for a student than is generally realized. A survey at Colorado State University found that half of all English majors found jobs in business. Twenty percent are teachers, and 13% are lawyers, journalists or government workers. Another 13% are unemployed, including struggling writers.

The current administration's attempts to curb the growth of big government seem to have run amuck. A new report from a House subcommittee says the federal payroll actually grew 5% during Ronald Reagan's first five years in the White House. The report says the budget axe fell heaviest on the Departments of Education, which lost 1/3 of its total employees and on the Department of Health and Human Services, which lost 23,000 workers. At the Defense Department, the story was a little different; it gained over 100,000 civilian employees in the same period.

Graduates of some colleges can now go from credits to credit. The latest money-making gimmick is a low cost credit card for alumni, with a fraction of all purchases going to the alma mater's alumni fund.

Fewer students should be able to get federal student aid in the future, says a report by the conservative Washington think tank that has supplied the Reagan administration with most of its college policy ideas.

New Jersey has a new high-tech test for drunk drivers. In addition to a breathalyzer test, suspected drunk drivers must put on a headband with electrodes connected to a computer. This "Veritas 100" monitors brain wave patterns for signs of alcohol or drug use.

Florida's Republican senator Paula Hawkins has give all 69 members of her staff urine tests.

Aid policies now waste U.S. tax dollars by "throwing good money after bad students," the Heritage Foundation's latest policy report claims.

The report, which also suggests taking aid aid away from students earning less than a C average, advocates a major revamping of the Higher Education Act now before Congress.

A major problem, the report concludes, is that "federal student aid has provided anyone who wants it with the means to finance a college education."

The last time the Heritage Foundation issued a new blueprint for higher education in 1980, the administration adopted most of its suggestions in bills it proposed to Congress in 1981 and 1982.

The latest report, "A Seven-Point Strategy for Federal Aid to Higher Education," was written by Eileen Gardner, a foundation fellow who holds a doctorate in Moral Education and Human Development from Harvard.

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Gardner concedes her proposals for the act are even more radical than the administration's, which she says shy away from "tampering" with ideals about providing "education for all."

"College is not for everyone," she reasons. "It doesn't mean you're a bad person (if you get bad grades). You just need to go somewhere else."

"I would love to find a good mechanic," she adds as a suggestion. — CPS

Ecology

Environmentalists and consumers are showing growing concern over the replacement of glass and aluminum soft drink containers with plastic. Soft drink companies have begun to market their sodas in plastic bottles and cans for economic reasons, but in a nationwide survey of 15,100 consumers, Para-Test Marketing Inc. found that 76% of those polled preferred the taste of soft drinks bottled in glass over plastic.

The impact on the environment would also be profound. Animals often confuse plastic bottles for food. It can be a deadly mistake. A number of plastic casualties have been reported in the past few years. Also, plastic containers have not been standardized, which makes recycling all but impossible. A nationwide campaign has begun to halt the manufacture of plastic cans, now being tested in the south. Write to Bryan Dyson, President, Coca Cola USA, P.O. Drawer 1734, Atlanta, GA 30301.

The National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, has released a report detailing the "alarming increase" in the resistance of insects, rodents and weeds to chemical pesticides. The 480-page report, prepared by an interdisciplinary group, concluded that, "there are no longer available any effective pesticides against some major crop pests." The report was pessimistic about the future, calling needed breakthroughs in biotechnology a decade away. "In the meantime, pest control strategies involving some use of chemical pesticides will need to be... adjusted to sustain control that is both efficacious and affordable."

Though fluorocarbons were banned from aerosol cans in 1978, they are still used industrially, and they still seem to be damaging the ozone layer, which protects the earth from deadly ultraviolet rays. It shrank 2.5% last year, a drop experts predicted would take 40 years. Even a 1% drop could damage crops and cause an extra 15,000 cases of skin cancer in the US annually.

The Supreme Court has refused to allow utility companies to charge consumers for costs stemming from unused nuclear power plants. The decision came in a case involving a reactor at Three Mile Island that was closed down for six years after the accident at that plant.

Civil liberties

A retired senior CIA official says that he believes "a miscarriage of justice" occurred in the espionage conviction of civilian Navy intelligence analyst Samuel Morison for providing copies of three satellite photographs to the press.

Writing in the May issue of First Principles, Roland S. Inlow said he had no sympathy for Morison's action in disclosing the photographs without authorization, but said he did not think that Morison committed "espionage" or that the disclosure caused any harm to the United States. Inlow retired from the CIA in 1979 after ten years as chairman of the interagency Commitee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation, which overseas the U.S. satellite reconnaissance program.

Washington State voters may soon be confronted with an initiative that would make it a crime for schools, day-care centers and other child-related organizations to knowingly employ anyone who is "sexually deviant." This initiative, if passed, would effectively bar homosexuals from teaching children. The initiative sponsor, Representative Glenn Dobbs, has distributed sixty thousand petitions in an attempt to get the initiative on the fall ballot.

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A federal appeals court in Manhattan has struck down the federal preventive detention law. The majority opinion said while there were proper uses of the law, such as guaranteeing the presence of a defendant at a trial or preventing intimidation of witnesses, it could not be used in general "to prevent future crimes against society at large." The judges said it then became a "police state approach" to law and order that "has never been part of the general American approach to criminal justice." The court's order was stayed pending appeal to the Supreme Court. In DC, where a preventive detention law has been in effect for some years, widespread use has been a major factor in prison overcrowding as well as raising serious human rights issues.

The Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal by an Alabama man who received a ten year sentence for receiving a booklet in the mail depicting children engaged in sex acts. Justices Brennan and Marshall dissented. In 1969 Marshall wrote in a majority opinion for another pornography case that the "state has no business in telling a man, sitting alone in his own home, what books he may read or what films he may watch." The Solicitor General argued that this 1969 case did not apply to child pornography.

Add to your list of American human rights scandals: the 1800 Cubans held under what Newsweek described as "horrifying" conditions awaiting resolution of an American-Cuban dispute. The problem arose when Fidel Castro sent some 2000 "undesirables" with the 125,000 Cubans seeking asylum under an agreement with the Carter administration. Castro has refused to take them back, so the US government just detains them until something is worked out. Meanwhile, the detainees live in incredible squalor, overcrowding and danger. As many as eight men are packed into an Atlanta cell 10 feet by 20 feet with one sink and one toilet. Suicides, assaults and murders are frequent. Newsweek reports that half of all assaults in federal prisons occur at the Atlanta penitentiary. The ACLU and the National Council of Churches has asked the UN to conduct an investigation.

Progressives who fear that recent attacks on *Playboy* and *Penthouse* might lead to broader censorship appear to be correct. The latest periodical to be removed from newstands is not a porn magazine, but *American Photographer*. A Kansas Magazine distributor removed the June issue from supermarkets when one of the company's stock hands noticed a picture with a naked breast in the magazine.

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THE NATION

Women lose as offices automate

David Beers

America's transition from a nation of factories to one of offices has hit a snag -- and women clerical workers are the big losers.

Employment is stagnating in the non-professional clerical sector as many jobs are automated out of existence. Those left tend to pay low, offer little upward mobility, and go to white women earning "second incomes" in the suburbs.

And though today's "pink collar" jobs often demand specialized computer skills, they are so regimented and closely monitored by management that workers often find themselves wracked by boredom, stress or both.

That is the bleak picture painted in a recently released study by 9to5, a national association of working women headquartered in Cleveland. The report, titled "Hidden Victims: Clerical Workers, Automation and the Economy," bases its assessment on government statistics, interviews with experts and 9to5's own survey of office workers.

"Many policy makers have been depending on the service sector, of which clerical employment is a significant part, to provide jobs to make up for losses in the manufacturing sector," says Karen Nussbaum, executive director of 9to5. Instead, she says, the study shows that "clerical workers may become as much victims of the changing economy as the dislocated steel and auto workers we hear so much about."

Until 1980 clerical jobs grew faster than the overall national rate of employment. But since then, the national growth rate for clerical jobs has slowed to 2 percent less than all employment, according to the report.

For the largest group of clerical workers -- secretaries, stenographers and typists -- the number of jobs has actually shrunk by 100,000 since 1980. And they have declined fastest in the industrial Midwest, the region already hit hardest by factory closings.

Pay hasn't increased either. According to the Census Bureau, in 1983 the median income for full-time women clericals was $10,435 -- about $250 above the poverty level for a family of four. Between 1983 and 1984, wages for clerical workers declined by 1.5 percent after adjusting for inflation.

Automation is the main culprit in these trends, says 9to5. Computers and improved telecommunications have allowed companies to slash jobs and consolidate their clerical operations, then move them out of large cities to places where labor and other costs are lower.

For cities like Detroit, which has seen a 40 percent drop in clerical jobs since 1980, the trend is ominous. "New high-tech white collar and clerical jobs, once touted as part of the economic salvation of urban areas, are now leaving town," warns a summary accompanying the report.

Suburbs in New Jersey and Northern California apparently offer the ideal settings for today's paperwork factories. Companies are flocking there to take advantage of "a more productive but non-militant work force," with women, "more likely to be white, college educated, married, more willing to work part-time and for lower wages and benefits," the report says.

In many cases, companies keep prestigious big-city addresses for their headquarters only, moving large data processing branches far away. That separation, says the

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report, is one of several factors shortening the traditional clerical career ladder for women:

"...the rising use of computer technology in offices has changed the nature of the white collar market. No longer can higher level clericals expect to rise into ranks of professional staff and management."

Instead of promoting from within, companies are filling more high-level slots with new college graduates or professionals from other firms, and "most of the new computer-related occupations are filled by men," according to the report.

Management comes in for other hard hitting criticism. The report says that in their quest for productivity, companies have used automation in a way that breeds tension and frustration. Newer computers are able to do more, but also require more specialized skills. Because their bosses are unwilling to train them to do more than one kind of computer-aided task, operators find themselves locked into a single, tightly bounded job, no longer able to relieve boredom by rotating positions with others.

And in many offices, computers allow supervisors to monitor workers' every keystroke and set performance quotas -- one 9to5 survey of 600 video display terminal (VDT) workers revealed that over 35 percent were checked in this way

One Ohio phone company, for example, had figured its workers' expected output down to the second. Verifying a billing charge was to take no more than 8.6 seconds, and ordering an account printout was considered a 37-second task.A surveyed employee described management's reaction when a co-worker failed to make the standard: "They checked her work. It was unmerciful; every batch, every little item...which made the woman even more nervous. It was like a cycle -- that woman's self-esteem was shattered..."

Such conditions exact a physical toll, the report suggests. It cites a recent study of North Carolina phone company VDT operators which discovered that 20 percent suffered angina and chest pain, often early symptoms of heart disease caused by stress. Computer monitoring has contributed to a "myriad of other health complaints" nationwide, says the report, ranging from mild backaches and headaches to more severe ulcer and eye problems.

Amidst its dreary prognostications, 9to5 finds a glimmer of hope -- if management decisions about how to use automation are to blame for adverse trends in clerical work, the report suggests, then pressure from workers might bring about improvements. It calls for better training, raised pay levels to reflect new computer skills, and an end to "top-down job-design."

"As the economy shifts and automation changes the shape of American offices, clerical workers must be involved in designing new jobs and office systems," declares the report summary.

But how employees will force their way into such decision-making remains unclear. Of some 18 million clerical workers in the United States -- 79 percent of whom are women -- only 17 percent are unionized, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

When government workers are excluded, the figure is even lower. Within the financial sector, where banks and insurance companies employ hundreds of thousands of pink collar workers, only one in 25 belongs to a union.

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"Rolling Stone" has gone "straight edge." The formerly counterculture magazine has warned employees not to use drugs or alcohol on the job, and will institute testing for suspected offenders.

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Did Reagan violate the Neutrality Act?

Laura Fraser

Far removed from the conflict in Nicaragua, a legal battle over U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels is slowly escalating.

Three years ago, U.S. Congressman Ron Dellums (D-CA), along with two private citizens, sued then-attorney general William French Smith, asking that he investigate whether President Reagan and several members of his administration had broken a criminal law when they ordered the CIA to support covert military activities in Nicaragua. Dellums claims that Reagan's involvement with the contras is illegal and asks that, under a post-Watergate law, a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate.

In 1983, Federal District Court Judge Stanley Weigel agreed with Dellums -- and ordered the attorney general to conduct a preliminary investigation into whether covert military aid to the contras was illegal. The government appealed and in January, 1984, was granted an emergency order to delay the investigation until the appeals court had reached its decision. On February 11, 1986, Dellums asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to reinstate the 1983 decision, to speed up the process and get on with the investigation. Although the appeals court closed oral argument on the case in June, 1984, it has not yet issued a ruling.

"The war in Nicaragua is heating up," said Dellums aide H. Lee Halterman. "People are dying every day, and we have a right to know if the people responsible for it here are breaking the law."

Dellums based his charge on the Neutrality Act, a law which has been on the books since the George Washington administration. The 1794 law, then aimed at keeping American ships from sending supplies to warring European nations, makes it a crime to initiate, organize, or furnish the money for a military or naval expedition against any foreign country or people with whom the U.S. is at peace.

Jules Lobel, a constitutional scholar from the University of Pittsburgh and an associate of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York who argued the appeal, says the Neutrality Act applies to the president and the director of the CIA as much as it does to a private citizen.

"Congress could have chosen to exempt the executive from the act and chose not to," Lobel says. "The law was meant to make criminal the exact acts of our government that we are seeing in Nicaragua today."

Justice Department attorney John Cordes declined comment on the case except to say that the Justice Department filed an opposition to Dellums' request to reinstate the order for an investigation.

Dellums' case was originally filed in 1983 under the Federal Ethics in Government Act, which requires that the attorney general "shall conduct an investigation whenever [he] receives information sufficient to constitute grounds to investigate" whether any designated federal officer has committed a violation of federal criminal law.

On January 27, 1983, the plaintiffs wrote a letter to the attorney general with details of how, at the request of Reagan and other members of his administration, "the CIA presented a plan covertly to aid, fund and participate in a military expedition and enterprise utilizing Nicaraguan exiles for the purpose of attacking and overthrowing the government of Nicaragua." The letter detailed the activities of six different U.S. locations where contras were being trained. The letter also pointed out that the U.S. had spent at least $19 million to finance covert paramilitary operations against the people and property of Nicaragua, and the U.S. had sent hundreds of CIA officers and agents to Honduras and Costa Rica to participate and assist in covert military operations against Nicaragua.

The attorney general refused to conduct a prelimiary investigation on the basis of Dellums' letter, saying it didn't "constitute

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specific information of the federal offense 'sufficient to constitute grounds to investigate.'"

Dellums then sued – saying that the attorney general's refusal to investigate deprived him of his constitutional right as a member of Congress to vote on the question as to whether the U.S. should make war on Nicaragua.

Two private citizens joined Dellums in the complaint. Eleanor Ginsberg claimed that paramilitary training near her home in Florida constituted a nuisance and disrupted her enjoyment of her property. Myrna Cunningham complained that while serving as a doctor in Nicaragua, she was kidnapped and raped by members of U.S.-supported paramilitary forces.

In the November, 1983, decision, Judge Weigel ordered that the attorney general investigate these possible violations of the Neutrality Act. He noted that the attorney general had not "seriously disputed" the information about the extent of CIA support to the contras.

The attorney general responded that private persons have no right to sue to enforce the Ethics in Government Act and that the case called for a decision on a political question. Calling both arguments "invalid," Weigel emphasized that the underlying purpose of the Ethics in Government Act "is to help insure that neither Congress nor the public shall be denied the facts when substantial claims of violation of federal law implicate high federal officials."

The judge also noted that, unlike in other unsuccessful cases challenging U.S. Central American policies, Dellums' case did not ask the court to declare the Reagan administration's actions illegal. Instead, the plaintiffs were asking only for an investigation into whether the actions were illigal. The other cases, Weigel wrote, had been unsuccessful because they had asked the court to "discover exactly what is happening in foreign countries" and to determine the extent to which the Neutrality Act limits the power of the President to conduct foreign policy, which he wrote is "best determined through political avenues available to Congress and the President."

Weigel ordered the attorney general to conduct an investigation within 90 days. If the attorney general failed to do so, a special prosecutor would be appointed. But the attorney general's office appealed the decision and received an emergency delay on the order before it took effect. The Justice Department argued that the appeal would be expedited, so there would be little harm in a brief delay of the investigation.

"They argued that it was not fair to do the work of investigating if the decision was overturned," says Halterman. "But while the appeal was expedited, the decision hasn't come. What was thought to have been a three or four month delay has now turned into two years."

And while the lawyers sit, "the daily killing of civilians by the contras continues with the active involvement of this administration," says Marc Van Der Hout, president of the National Lawyers Guild, which has brought the case in conjunction with the Center for Constitutional Rights. "As in Watergate, it is time to get on with the investigation and see if the president should be sent to jail for his flouting of criminal laws."

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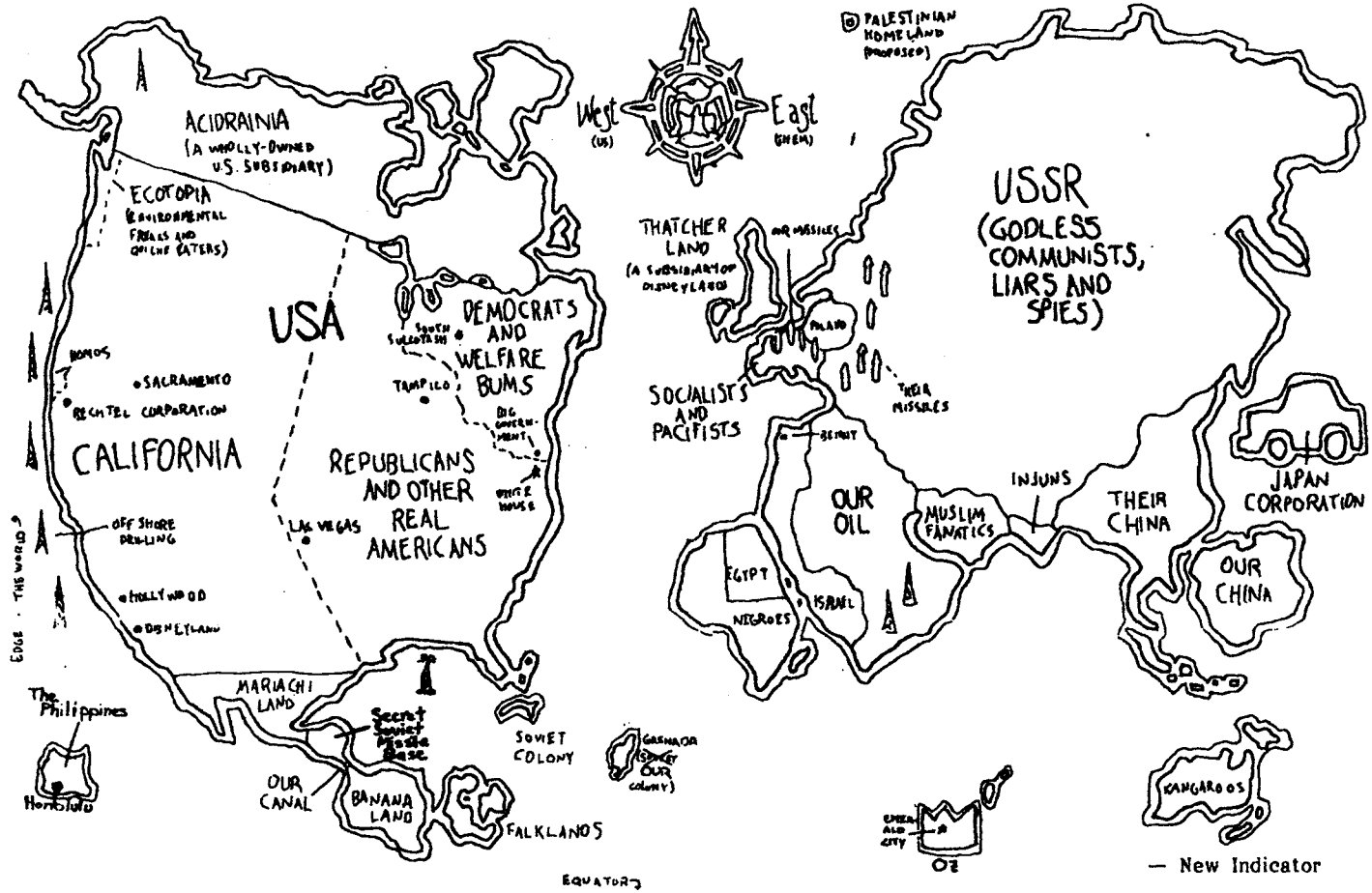
The World According to Ronald Reagan:



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The failure of fair housing

Kevin Kelley

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- It was late at night last June when Mabel Gant, 66, her daughter and her grandchildren were startled by a crash at the window and a sudden burst of flames. Within minutes the old frame house rented by the black family in a 99-percent-white Cleveland neighborhood was completely gutted. The firebombing, for which no one has yet been convicted, killed Mabel Gant and forced the rest of the family back to an all-black project they had left only a year earlier.

Scores of physical attacks on black occupied homes have been reported in the past year, with most outbreaks now occuring in the North or Midwest, not the South. The violence reinforces an already pervasive pattern of housing segregation in the United States, a pattern that many say must be broken in order to cure other social ills.

"Segregated neighborhoods insure the continuation of the poverty cycle," says Oscar Newman, a national housing expert. "When poor people are able to move into more affluent areas, which is often the same thing as racial integration, then they benefit from better schools, law enforcement, sanitation, and generally improved social services."

His analysis has been upheld in court. Late last year, for example, a federal judge ruled that the city of Yonkers, N.Y. had in effect created inferior, mostly minority schools by perpetuating all-black nieghborhoods.

Overall, the Justice Department reports 65 cases of housing discrimination involving violence last year, as compared to 47 in 1984. Complaints about bias received by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are also on the upswing, with 4882 recorded last year -- 350 more than in 1984. And these formal filings apparently represent just a fraction of the actual number of housing discrimination cases. HUD estimates that there are at least 2 million such incidents annually.

One reason for the difference, explains Katrina Ross of HUD's fair housing unit, is that "most instances of bias are now so subtle and sophisticated that many people don't even realize they've been victimized."

The practice of "steering" by real estate brokers may be the most common -- and least visible -- method of segregating. Many agents show homes to blacks only in mostly minority areas, steering them away from all-white neighborhoods.

Last year the New York state attorney general brought bias charges against four real estate companies in suburban Nassau County after undercover teams found that the firms treated black and white clients much differently. Of 78 homes offered to investigators posing as prospective buyers with similar incomes, only three were shown to blacks as well as whites.

In addition, the teams discovered that some sales agents would accomodate whites without an apppointment but not blacks, and would routinely tell blacks but not whites that only homes beyond their specified price ranges were available.

Some mortgage lenders and insurance companies add to

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segregation by "redlining" -- refusing to do business with home-owners or buyers in so-called transitional neighborhoods. The practice "is still a factor in keeping some areas all black," says Kale Williams, an integration activist in Chicago.

The federal government itself plays a major role in dividing communities along racial lines, according to various studies. A 14-month survey by the Dallas Morning News found a consistent pattern of government-sponsored segregation in 47 cities. The paper reported last year that it could not find a single locality where federally subsidized low-income housing was fully integrated or where conditions were roughly equal for whites and blacks living in separate projects.

Whites account for about 60 percent of the 10 million living in public housing in the United States, but they usually get placed in developments that house few minorities.

A bipartisan group of 15 former federal officials charged in 1983 that the Reagan administration was encouraging segregation by failing to enforce the 1968 Fair Housing Act. The Act, by the Supreme Court's interpretation, mandates not just anti-discrimination enforcement but actively promoting integration.

The administration's stand, however, is reflected in Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds' remark in 1984 that "the natural consequences of people's choices of housing is not something the federal government ought to regulate."

Drafters of the Fair Housing Act would no doubt be disappointed by the findings of Karl Taeuber, a University of Wisconsin demographer, 18 years after its passage. Using a scale in which 100 equals total segregation and zero represents full integration, Taeuber places the national average at 81, based on 1980 census data, as compared to 87 ten years earlier. He rates Chicago, Philadelphia and St. Louis the most segregated of large cities, while Oakland, Calif., with a 59 score, ranks as the most relatively integrated.

The lack of progress, coupled with a rise in racial clashes over housing issues, have spurred legislative initiatives on Capitol Hill.

The major reform measure is being sponsored in the Senate by Charles Mathias (R-Md.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). It would set up a system of administrative judges empowered to rule on housing discrimination complaints, with cases being brought at no charge to the plaintiff. At present, the Justice Department can bring such suits in federal court only when it detects a "pattern or practice" of discrimination. Supporters of the bill say it will streamline the process and help target individual cases of bias.

The Reagan administration has a competing measure. It expands the Justice Department's jurisdiction and sets a $50,000 fine for first conviction, but it does not contain the administrative law judge provision. With civil rights activists calling the administration proposal unacceptable, a stalemate seems likely.

On a different legislative front, the Reagan administration is allied with civil rights forces in pushing for a $4 million HUD program to aid fair housing enforcement efforts by local nongovernmental groups. Half that money would be set aside to promote undercover testing of real estate firms in ways similar to those used in Nassau County, N.Y.

Intense opposition from the powerful National Association of Realtors may kill the proposal, however.

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South Africa and America's cities

Franz Schurmann

As the spate of recent media coverage of the bleakness of ghetto life indicates, establishments are again worried about the place of blacks in American society. An unspoken conclusion from that coverage is that, except for a successful black middle class, there may be no place for them.

Such was the tacit message from a recent book-length series in the Chicago Tribune on life in largely black North Lawndale on Chicago's west side. Page after page detailed crime, despair, babies born to children, no jobs, degraded standards of living. Readers got the sense of people just vegetating as if in some film about the world after nuclear war.

Even more reminiscent of such films is the fact that young people predominate, reflecting the rising proportion of black teenagers and young adults in most ghettoes in recent decades.

To someone old enough to remember, the current establishment worry is different from earlier decades. In the 1950s, people of power and influence felt that blacks were just too valuable a manpower resource to waste. In the 1960s, the New Frontier zealots wanted to show the newly emerging Third World abroad that the U.S., contrary to communism's claims, could become a racially integrated society. Then there was an optimistic tenor to the new race policies. This time, however, the establishment mood is as bleak as ghetto landscapes.

It is a fair guess that what got the establishments into this new mood of worry had something to do with South Africa. Last year, night after night, American TV viewers could see anger exploding out of black townships. Those who read the papers carefully learned that the explosive energy came largely from youngsters, some of whom were barely past grade school. And it did not take much imagination to realize that exactly the same kind of youth tinder lies strewn about the ghettoes of U.S. inner cities.

In South Africa, the townships have no economies, only people who stream out every day to work elsewhere in the white man's economy. North Lawndale once had Sears' world headquarters, the famed Hawthorne plant of Western Electric, International Harvester, Ryerson Steel. All are gone now.

But unlike South Africa, North Lawndale's people have little to stream out to. To the west they are hemmed in by truculent white suburbs, and to the east by downtown Chicago's booming yuppie economy for whites, upwardly mobile minorities, and, increasingly, Latino menial workers.

In previous decades, the establishments believed it was time for the mighty machinery of government to get moving and do something about racism and poverty. Now the mood is that even lots of money -- which is not available anyway -- would not make much of a difference. The problem, they now believe, goes deeper to differing "values" between the underclasses and the mainstream.

The media which have long been sympathetic to government's efforts to improve the social scene have recently found kind things to write about the new "conservative" mood among blacks. "Blacks must save themselves," goes the new mood. The papers feature people like Bertha Gilkey

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who transformed her run-down St. Louis public housing project and is preaching her self-help gospel throughout the nation.

Yet, as the Tribune's series indicates, the challenge is monumental, and if South Africa be an omen, time could be running out. And the longer run prospects for a benign outcome to the American racial dilemma could be even bleaker than South Africa's. There, blacks are needed throughout the economy. In the American economy, they have become disproportionately redundant.

In the early 1970s, former Black Panther party leader Huey Newton argued that blacks had become unemployable and therefore should turn their ghettoes into "liberated zones" within America itself. Louis Farrakhan preaches the fundamental incompatibility of Black and White America to a growing black following. Talk from white establishments about differing values will only enhance such secessionist sentiment.

Whites often ask why if other ethnic groups fought their way out of poverty and in the process created bustling neighborhoods, blacks could not do likewise. North Lawndale was once such a neighborhood populated by East European immigrants. When businesses left and whites fled, the ghetto came into being. The answer may be that blacks will simply do it in a different way.

South Africa reminds us that de facto apartheid exists in the United States as well. In South Africa young people who style themselves "comrades" have begun to organize the amorphous townships and lead the fight against the whites. What really worries American establishments is that in America's inner city ghettoes similar young people could start moving in the same direction.

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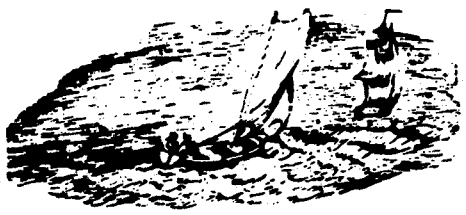

Topics
Sam Smith

Today's text

Our text for today is found in the eighth chapter of 1 Samuel. When Samuel got old he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. As so often occurs with nepotism this didn't work out, the offspring taking dishonest gain and bribes and perverting justice. So the elders of Israel paid a call on old man Samuel and suggested that he appoint a real king like other nations had. This didn't sit too well with Samuel so he took the matter to the Lord and the latter said in effect, "If you feel bad, think how I feel. Look, I brought these bums out of Egypt and what do I get for thanks? They go and serve other gods. Now they want to ditch you too.

"So Sam, here's what's going to come down. We're going to give them a real king and see how they like it."

Continuing in the more literal translation, the Lord said:

"However, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them."

Here were the ground rules the Lord laid down through Samuel:

"This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

"He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

"And he will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and our donkeys and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants.

"Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer your in that day."

I submit this as further evidence that the Lord is not a Reaganite but probably a libertarian — if not an anarchist. It is one of the tragedies of modern political debate that the Bible has been surrendered to the right, even when it is clear, as in this case, that the Almighty approves of neither authoritarian regimes, military build-ups nor the concentration of land-holdings. Consider as well the little noted fact that the Bible is far clearer on the evils of usury than of abortion and that it not only is far less prudish about human sexuality than Mr. Meese, it even suggests an alternative approach to pornography, urging that if one's eye offends thee, the eye and not the vision should be removed. And, as some deep ecologists have noted, the Bible suggests that the earth is the Lord's and not the property of multinational corporations.

The ultimate irony of the Reagan administration is that it pretends to be a bastion of Christian politics when, in fact, it is comprised in no small part of despoilers, usurers, war-mongers, hypocrites, idolators and groupies of false prophets — all of whom are frowned upon by the book it pretends to follow. And its opponents, who are more faithful to the words Reagan only quotes, are often such good Christians that they never say a mumblin' word about it all.

Going local

One of the subliminal themes of this journal has been that Washington is not the root of all solutions. In this, the Review has found itself at odds with the federocentric view of many progressive groups and publications. But the currents may be changing. More national action groups seem to be paying attention to what is going on at the state and local level. And the May 4 New York Times contained a fascinating front page article on the discovering by state courts of their own constitutions. Using these constitutions, reports the Times, "state judges have expanded freedom of speech, press and religion, the protection against unreasonable search and seizure, the right to bear arms, and other rights." The trend, which reverses the

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tendency of state courts in the 50s and 60s to provide citizens with less rights than the federal bench has been called by Supreme Court Justice William Brennan Jr., "probably the most important development in constitutional jurisprudence today." And given the bleak long-range prospects for the Supreme Court it suggests that time spent expanding human rights under state law will be far from wasted.

MTV & the Senate

To understand the eccentricities of our age, you must first put aside all notions of rational analysis and rigorous thought that some misguided teacher surely tried to inculcate. These days, rationality, rigor and reason are the smokestack industries of the mind, unsustainable without some form of government subsidy or, at least, trade barriers. Life is becoming more and more like Friday night videos, a rapid succession of images and symbols accompanied by a noise that itself is merely a symbol for music. The creator of MTV recently said of his audience: "Their thinking is nonlinear ... Images, sense, impressions are what count — not words." Myth is not merely threatening reality; it has become reality.

I do not propose to rail against this; after all, such high moments in human existence as Greek civilization were also mired in mythology — to our subsequent delight and edification, if not to the pleasure of those at the time who were slaves, ill or in the military.

But as one whose trade has been to produce facts and figures, I understand the frustration of the shoemaker or the steelworker. We are on the skids of history and we deserve at least a bit of sympathy if not a fullscale retraining program.

Such morose thoughts welled up as I began to realize the intimate connection between Ronald Reagan, rock videos, the Michael Jackson Pepsi commercial (in which he not only offers no endorsement but doesn't even touch the stuff), and the Senate handling of the tax reform bill. The first-mentioned matters have been adequately covered, but the tax reform package pushed through the Senate has not been given proper credit as perhaps the most important piece of symbolic domestic legislation of our lifetimes.

Admittedly, Gramm-Rudman was worthy seminal effort at mythological legislation but I suspect that the tax reform measure may have far deeper significance. I say "suspect" because a key characteristic of this new type of politics is that one doesn't, nor does one feel the need to, know what the effects will be. If the intent is pure, as with knights of yore, that will suffice.

Put another way, I have never seen a such an important non-defense measure go through a house of Congress with so little serious debate and analysis and with such reckless indifference to the lack of such debate and analysis.

It was sufficient that it represented Tax Reform in much the way that the Pope represents God. The implicit response to any criticisms of the specific bill was that, like the Pope, tax reform was infallible.

It was a remarkable performance in which the politicians were joined by a media that strongly created the impression that any amendments, any impediments to speedy passage, were virtually a threat to the Republic.

Now, in fact, the tax reform bill approved by the Senate might have been what was claimed for it. My point is simply that this was not an issue in the Senate. The issue was support of this symbol of tax reform. Any alternative made one immediately an enemy of such reform.

Along the way, a number of subsidiary myths were created and then happily embraced by all concerned. Towit:

Myth #1: Tax simplification is tax reform. While, up to a point, the former is a worthy goal, there is no inexorable connection between the two. At best, tax simplification is a simple-minded approach to tax reform. A 90% tax on all income could be very simple, but might be regarded as falling short of reform.

Myth #2: The Senate was propelled on a wave a popular demand. In fact, a national poll in May found only a plurality of Americans approving of tax reduction through the eliminating many current tax deductions. A majority opposed eliminating contributions to an IRA and the country was evenly split on the matter of dropping deductions for state and local sales tax. Only one out of ten Americans said they were paying much attention to the matter.

Myth #3: Tax simplification produces a more equitable tax system. This is not necessarily true. For example, the Washington Post reported that a single person with a taxable annual income of $17,600 would, under the Packwood bill, pay the same marginal tax rate as a millionaire. Senator George Mitchell, one of the few in the Senate who seemed to take the issues seriously, attempted without success to add another tax bracket. Mitchell argued that the bill was a "strange version of

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Robin Hood — take from the rich with shelters, give to the rich without shelters." And Carl Levin, one of three brave senators to vote against the bill, points out that people who borrow against their home equity for consumer loans can deduct the interest while those forced to use conventional financing can't.

Myth #4: The social and economic consequences of tax simplification can be safely ignored. While it is true that some attempts to influence social and economic factors through tax policy have failed (such as tax incentives to get business to locate or stay in a locality) others appear to have worked quite well, such as allowing people to deduct their home mortgage costs. This matter is infinitely complex but complexity and tax simplification don't mix so the question just wasn't brought up.

Myth #5: Lowering your taxes will reduce your cost of living. Perhaps, but not as much as one thinks. For example, one of the effects of the tax bill will be to raise the effective cost of borrowing money for anything other than a house. Simply buying a car on time could wipe out reduction benefits for some. Further, excluding state and local sales tax deductions may have the effect of raising the cost of local government.

Myth #6: Progressivity doesn't matter. Progressivity, albeit badly twisted by tax loopholes, has been a hallmark of our tax policy for half a century. With the exception of a few people like Mitchell, the Senate acted is if it had never heard of the word.

Myth #7: It's a new idea whose time has come. As Kevin Philips, no leftist, pointed out on NPR, the tax simplification bill is actually a reversion to 1920s politics when in the name of unleashing the economic system and encouraging growth, Republicans under Harding and Coolidge significantly reduced the upper tax brackets and, as now, with the quiet complicity of the Democratic Party. A few years later we were in a depression and the New Deal went back to higher rates and a more progressive structure.

Each of these issues deserved serious attention. None of them got it. But then, as the character in Washingtoon said the other day, "Issues aren't real. Issues are just masses of opposing scenarios vying to become perceptions." I have little idea of what the results of tax simplification would be — except I am reasonably certain it will not be simple. My paranoic side does not like the fact that there seem to be too many foxes in the chickencoop.

I do have a suspicion and it is this: that the Packwood measure should be regarded as the Professionals' Relief Act of 1986. If you look at it closely you will see that one of the clear beneficiaries are people of fairly high income with few shelters, characteristics, for example, of that extremely, important party to national politics, the Washington lawyer. And one New York financial analysist has suggested that the silence from corporate boardrooms may stem from big business officials considering the effect on their own wallets before that of their company's. Finally, one of my basic rules of politics is that when there's too much unity, count the silverware.

Question time

In the flap over Tip O'Neil's refusal to let Ronald Reagan address the House on Contra aid, the speaker made an offer that deserves more attention than it got. He said the president could address the House if he would engage in the normal give-and-take of that body. The White House rejected the idea.

But now that both houses of Congress are on television, one of the most important steps that could be taken towards the restoration of America's crumbling democracy would be to have the president subjected to a congressional question-time, similar to that which the leaders of Canada and Great Britain face in their parliaments. In these legislatures, the prime minister and cabinet officials must face regular questioning by members and the smattering of the Canadian version I have seen on TV makes me yearn for the innovation here, this especially since the press has become so subservient in its treatment of presidents. It would make terrific television, remind citizens of the proper balance of powers and demythologize the White House.

The boring center

After reading ad nauseum about those centrist Democrats who are meant to hold the key to the party's future, it was astonishing to learn that this boring lot, in sum, fared worse in a Washington Post-ABC poll than Jesse Jackson. The poll found the following choices:

Gary Hart	33%
Lee Iacocca	19%
Jesse Jackson	18%
Mario Cuomo	16%
Bill Bradley	6%
Charles Robb	5%
Richard Gephardt	2%
Joseph Biden	1%
Bruce Babbitt	<1%

The thing that all those receiving single digit responses have in common is that they have been touted, by the Washington Post among others, as examples of the sort of people who

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can lead the Democrats to victory. Lump them all together and the alleged extremist, Jackson, would still beat them by 3 percentage points.

This is a wonderful example of journalistic hope triumphing over journalistic fact. The press, especially the Washington brand, is vehemently centrist in its views. They like people like Robb who can even make blaming the poor for their ills sound respectable. The former Virginia governor recently travelled to New York to propose a national effort to break the "self-destructive" behavior of the urban black underclass. That comment was immediately seized upon by the media and can be expected to become a new buzz phrase in politics. Of course, if Reagan had said it the Democrats would be citing it as an example of his lack of understanding of and compassion for the problems of American cities. When Robb says it, he is cited as striking out a bold new direction for Democrats. Fortunately, at least according to this poll, ordinary Democrats haven't fallen for this claptrap.

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This is the 20th anniversary issue of the Review. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the Progressive Review, 1739 Connecticut Avenue Northwest. The editor, for his part, will celebrate with his regular estivation in the cooler climes of Maine to remind himself, in part, that the tide does come back in again. Thanks for your support over the years and I'll see you in the fall.

The Reagan File

Here's one of Reagan's fables followed by the facts of the matter:

"In California a man was using a public telephine booth to place a call. An alleged drunk driver careened down the street, lost control of her car, and crashed into the phone booth. It's no surprise that the injured man sued, but you might be startled to hear whom he sued: the telephone company and associated firms. That's right, according to Chief Justice Rose Bird of the California Supreme Court, a jury could find that the companies responsible for the design, location, installation and maintenance of the telephone booth were liable."

It is true that Justice Bird wrote the decision, but it was one supported by five of the six other members of the court. The court found that the phone booth was 15 feet from a busy road, that it has been struck at least once before and that a jammed door had prevented the man from leaving when he saw the car coming. Bird wrote that the "risk can not be said to be unforeseen as a matter of law." The matter was sent back to a lower court for trial and was eventually settled out of court.

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From a Washington Post story: "Reagan appeared halting, distracted and confused during the half-hour session in the White House East Room, He misunderstood two questions and gave rambling answers to others, and some of his statements had to be 'clarified' yesterday by the White House." Part of the problem: Reagan had decided to change the way he called on reporters at news conferences. In addition to his normal crib sheets he had a set of cards with the names of those he wanted to call upon plus a coded chart showing where they were seated. Later Reagan told aides, "Next time I'm going to concentrate not on who I'm calling on, but what I'm going to say." Or he could be really wild, pretend it was a real news conference, and just pick the questioners at random.

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Consistent with its promise to get the government off our backs, the Reagan administration is considering a revised nuclear civil defense plan that would provide shelter for state and local officials and for land records — but not for the rest of us. Your favorite local officials would be saved to manage "the trans-attack period," and to restore "post-attack government and society." The land records are necessary to "retain and demonstrate ownership." The rest of us would have to rely on "self-help."

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What's happening in the forests

Norman Myers

Man is degrading and destroying tropical forests at a rate which will leave little, beyond a few isolated remnants, within just another few decades. According to bioclimatic data, tropical forests may once have covered 6.5 million square miles, or five and a half times as large an area as Western Europe and twice as much as the United States. Today there is less than 3.5 million square miles remaining in virgin (or undisturbed, otherwise "primary") form, i.e. with full ecological complexity and biological richness that mark true tropical forests. If man continues to deplete the forests at rates over two percent per year, there will obviously be nothing left in less than half a century's time. In fact the rate of depletion is itself increasing, and within just another 30 years or so there may be only scraps left.

There are actually two forms of depletion. First, and worst, is outright destruction of forest cover, i.e. complete and permanent elimination of every last tree, leaving the area replaced by rice paddies or cattle ranches or parking lots. This is accounting for at least 40,000 square miles per year. In addition, gross disruption of forests, still leaving a good number of trees but leaving an impoverished travesty of true tropical forest, is accounting for a further 40,000 square miles per year, possibly a good deal more. This all means that we are losing 50 acres a minute through outright destruction, *plus* a further 50 acres through gross degradation. In the five minutes that you, reader, take to read this article, we shall have effectively lost a good way over 500 acres, or almost one square mile.

Who is doing the damage? There are three main agents at work. First is the commercial logger, who grossly degrades some 20,000 square miles per year. Although he extracts only a few prizes trees per acre, his logging methods are so negligent that between one third and two thirds of remaining trees are injured beyond recovery. Much of this damage is readily avoidable, albeit at some cost. Better still, the timber harvester can grow his wood in "tree farms", or plantations established in already cleared lands — which means that not a single further tree needs to be cut in virgin forests. But plantation wood tends to be more expensive.

Developed-world consumption of tropical hardwoods has increased 15 times since 1950, and now accounts for about half of all commercial timber cut in tropical forests. To this extent, people in countries thousands of miles away from tropical forests can well ask a key question: Whose hand is on the chainsaw at work in tropical forests? Moreover, much of the logging is conducted by giant timber corporations based in Western Europe, North America and (particularly) Japan. Again, commercial forces of the developed world carry their share of responsibility for the demise of tropical forests.

Cattle Ranchers

The second agent of deforestation is the cattle rancher, notably in Central America and Amazonia. He accounts for 10,000 square miles of forest cleared, through burning, each year, to make way for man-established pastures. Since 1950, the expanse of these pastures in Latin America has expanded three times, almost entirely at the cost of natural forest. Yet hardly any of the additional beef goes ito the stomachs of local people, who mostly enjoy no more meat per week than does a domestic cat in Great Britain or the United States. Instead the beef — grass-fed beef, hence lean beef, first-rate for the fast-food trade — is shipped northwards into the United States, where it contributes to hamburgers, frankfurters and other convenience foods.

To this extent, the American consumer is a major factor in deforestation in Central America. As in the case of specialist hardwoods from the tropics, the price paid by the developed-world citizen for his hamburger does not cover all the costs of production — especially environmental costs. Ironically the problem can be readily resolved in the long run, by obliging cattle ranchers to engage in a modicum of management of their pastures and cattle herds. Were they to upgrade their livestock husbandry, they could produce twice as much beef without chopping a single further tree.

The third agent of destruction causes most of the rest of the damage which makes him more significant than the first two together. He is the smallscale farmer, who engages in slash-and-burn cultivation. There are 250 million of these people, and their numbers are growing even faster than those of Third World populations as a whole. This ultra-rapid growth is due to the influx of migrant farmers into forest zones, from traditional farming areas that can no longer support their throngs. The problem in the traditional farming area lies not only with population growth itself, but with land-tenure systems that concentrate the bulk of traditional farms in the hands of a few largescale landholders

Does it matter?

These, then, are the main forces

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behind the demise of tropical forests, but does tropical deforestation *really* matter? Yes, it matters in at least three main ways — and it matters to all of us. First of all, tropical forests represent a valuable renewable resource in the form of their timber stocks — provided they are exploited rationally, that is, sustainably. Logging revenues now total about $7 billion a year, or twice as much as the Third World receives for its coffee exports. Yet through mis-use and over-use of timber stocks, these revenues are projected to decline to only $2 billion by the year 2000; and by the year 2015, tropical-forest countries could actually become net importers of hardwoods to the tune of $6 billion a year. The humid tropics could become the "wood basket" of the world, with little intrinsic harm to the bulk of remaining tropical forest ecosystems. Yet this potential bonanza is being casually cast away with all that means for the development and welfare of dozens of Third World countries.

Secondly, as tropical forests disappear, so do their species. Although the forests cover only 7 percent of Earth's land surface, they harbour at least half and possibly three-quarters of all Earth's species. When we hear about a major extinction spasm ahead of us, it is in tropical forests that the greatest waves of extinctions will occur. Wild species and their genetic resources make many contributions to modern agriculture, medicine, industry and energy. Little as we may be aware, there is one chance in five that when we visit our neighbourhood chemist, our purchase — whether an antibiotic, a tranquillizer, a diuretic, a contraceptive pill, or a commonplace pharmaceutical — owes its manufacture, in one way or another, to startpoint materials from tropical forest plants. The rosy periwinkle, whose native home is Madagascar's forests, supplies two powerful drugs against Hodgkin's disease, leukemia, and other types of blood cancer. Commerical sales of these two drugs are worth more than $150 million a year worldwide. Cancer researchers believe there could be another 10 or 12 plants in tropical forests with potental to generate superstar drugs against cancer, provided the medicinal researcher gets to them before the chainsaw man gets to their habitat.

Scientific Benefits

In the other fields of agriculture, industry and energy, tropical forest species make dozens of daily contributions to our material welfare. Yet we enjoy these many benefits after scientists have conducted intensive investigations of only one plant species in 100, and far fewer of the myriad animal species, to determine their utilitarian possibilities. Tropical forests plainly represent a vast cornucopia of new foods, pharmacopoeias of new medicines, extraordinarily diversified stocks of industrial raw materials, and unique new sources of energy (through, for example, hydrocarbon-bearing plants).

We shall all further suffer through the demise of tropical forests by virtue of their role in global climatic patterns. The linkages between decline in forest cover and decline in rainfall are becoming well documented at local level, in e.g. Amazonia. How about climatic connections between the tropics and the temperate zones? Two mechanisms arise. First is the albedo effect: when forests are eliminated, there is an increase in "shininess" at the Earth's surface — which triggers dislocations in convection currents, wind patterns and rainfall regimes, including those in lands far away from the tropics. Similarly, burning of tropical forests contributes to buildup of carbon dioxide in the global atmosphere, leading to a greenhouse effect that may transform temperate-zone climates into something warmer than has been known for thousands if not millions of years. Not only warmer, but drier too, for some territories at least. The upshot could be climatic conditions that are now characterized as "drought" — with all that means for grain-growing lands in Europe and North America.

Finally, as an instance of global interdependence via ecologic linkages, let us consider the case of Ethiopia — that famous and benighted country that has attracted so much of our attention during the past couple of years. As far back as 1970, the Ethiopian highlands, where the great bulk of the populace lived, were almost bereft of their forest cover. Result, massive soil erosion. Further result, decline in agricultural productivity. Still further result, widespread shortages of food and soaring prices for bread and other staples. Result, a steady migration of farmers from the highlands into the lowlands, and notably into the Ogaden sector — a salient of Ethiopian territory that reaches into Somalia. Result, the Somalis felt threatened, and went to war. The localized punch-up did not matter to the outside world, until the superpowers saw security implications with respect to the lines of oil tankers extending from the Persian Gulf, along the coast of the Horn of Africa, toward the industrialized nations of the Western world. Within just a few years, the two superpowers poured more than $1 billion into the war. A few years later, in 1985, the outside world contributed half a billion dollars to help keep Ethiopians alive — not to rehabilitate their farmlands, just to keep them fed. In 1985 too, the United Nations revealed that had counter-measures been undertaken in 1970, especially through restoration of forest cover in the highlands, the cost need have been no more than $50 million a year.

In 1985 too, the Washington-based World Resources Institute and the World Bank published the recommendations of their Task Force on Tropical Forests. The resultant Action Plan proposes an across-the-board series of remedial measures, including many more "tree farms" to relieve exploitation pressure on virgin forests, rehabilitation of two-thirds of a million square miles of degraded watersheds, many more protected areas to safeguard threatened species, much more in the way of training and education, and a major push to help the cause of the smallscale farmer. Total cost, around $1.3 billion per year for at least 5 years, probably until the end of the century. The funding is supposedly to be supplied by both tropical-forest countries and by fat-cat countries. But even if the fat-cat countries were to pick up the entire bill, this would amount to no more than about one dollar per citizen per year — or the prize of a pint of beer per taxpayer every couple of months. A bargain investment?

Dr Norman Myers is author of The Primary Source: Tropical Forests and our Future, W.W. Norton, London and New York, paperback, 1984.

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Cracks at Three Mile Island

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved a change to Three Mile Island-1's license to allow the plant to start again last April, prior to hearings on the safety of the change. Acording to Three Mile Island Alert, a Harrisburg-based anti-nuclear group, the approval is illegal. In addition, the NRC failed to notify TMIA of the amendment in time to allow pursuit of court action to stop the illegal startup. TMIA contends that since the group had initiated the safety hearings, it was entitled to be informed as to any changes in licensing.

According to a story in the Lancaster Independant Press, the license amendment allowed TMI-1 to start up with steam generator tubes with cracks 25% deeper than current industry standards allow. These tubes act to isolate from the outside environment the highly radioactive water which circulates around the reactor's radioactive core. If just one of these tubes ruptured, the containment is breached, and radioactive water and steam would likely be released directly into the environment.

TMIA attorney Joanne Doroshow said that the decision to make this license amendment effective, without awaiting the outcome of the NRC hearings, violates the Atomic Energy Act. This act provides for prior hearings before any license change is allowed.

In 1981, the steam generators at TMI-1 were severely damaged by the inadvertent introduction of a sulfur compound into the reactor's primary system, which corroded the inside of all 31,000 of the plant's steam generator's tubes.

"There are serious safety issues raised by this change in TMI-1 safety rules," commented Doroshow. "Considering the 1981 damage to the steam generators, and the 1982 repairs, TMI-1's steam generators remain the most damaged and mutilated of any reactor in nuclear power history. Now the company has discovered new cracking and no one knows what's causing it. Rather than acting cautiously, GPU, [the operator] asks for an unprecedented relaxation of its safety rules. Anybody who thinks GPU's main mission is 'safety first' had better stop and think again."

Despite the massive damage to the generators, GPU chose to repair them with a highly experimental process. In addition, those tubes most seriously cracked, those with cracks greater than 40% through the wall of the tubes, were plugged and removed from service, as required by TMI-1's license. In 1984, GPU discovered that a number of tubes were showing new cracks, many of which were greater than 40%. Under standard NRC requirements, these tubes were required to be plugged. But NRC requirements also prohibit a plant from operating at full capacity with more than a certain number of plugged tubes. TMI-1 is now approaching its "plugging limit."

Recognizing that tube degradation was likely to get worse, the company last November submitted an unprecedented request to the NRC to amend its license to change the plugging criteria, to allow tubes with up to 70% throughwall damage to remain in service.

"It is just incredible that the NRC granted this change while members of its own staff admit that they are unsure what's causing the new cracks, that GPU's testing process is not entirely reliable, and that the change violates NRC requirements. This is the clearest example yet of the agency's

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willingness to go along with whatever the company asks in order to save GPU a few bucks. And the NCR's surrepitious handling of this matter is another example of an agency running in fear of its own citizenry."

The NCR has agreed that the issues raised by the proposed plugging criteria change, are serious enough to constitute a "significant hazard consideration" and therefore granted TMIA's request for a hearing. But despite the admittance of safety concerns, the staff substantially reversed its position to allow current startup. Without notifying TMIA, it advised GPU that if it submitted a modified "temporary" request to change the plugging criteria, the staff would would approve such a request without prior resolution of the many concerns about the condition of TMI-1's steam generators. The company submitted such a request, and the NRC approved it.

Maine rejects a porn law

Maine voters crushed a referendum that would have made selling or distributing "obscene material" a crime.On June 11,with almost all of the 609 precincts reporting, the vote was 200,390 against and 79,415 for the proposal, according to the New York Times. This was the first time such a state-wide ban had reched the ballot, and its defeat is a victory for the civil libertarians and defenders of a powerful First Amendment who had campaigned against it.

The Christian Civic League of Maine was the primary supporter of the measure, which asked voters, "Do you want to make it a crime to make, sell, give for value, or otherwise promote obscene material in the state of Maine?" Supporters seem particularly concerned that violent "hard" pornography can incite some people to act strangely and viciously. They particularly emphasized the vulnerability of children to sex offenders. One leaflet Concerned Citizens for Decency distibuted read, "Today in Maine, a child is sexually assaulted every 9 hours and 33 minutes,"

The referendum gathered steam after the report earlier this year by a federal Commision on Pornography, headed by Edwin Meese. That commission decided there was strong evidence that linked pornography showing violence and degradation to agressive sexual behavior. Interestingly enough, the last federal report (16 years ago, under the Nixon administration) found no such link. In any case, according to the New York Times, "some researchers have complained that their findings have been misused as the basis for the report."

This reservation notwithstanding, there has been nationwide response to this report. Thousands of convenience stores, including Peoples in the D.C. area and 7-11 nationwide, have removed "adult" magazines from their racks.This sort of commercial decision, though, is a step removed from the legal restrictions that referendums such as these would place on a store-owner's right to sell, and a consumer's right to read, this material.

Such attempts to circumvent the First Amendment have not been popular with voters. Cambridge

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Massachusetts, for example, voted more than 70% against such a town ordinance in November. Portland, the largest city in Maine did pass a resolution in 1982, which squeaked by (384 vote margin out of 26,830 ballots cast), but has yet to close any of the city's adult bookstores.

Maine's reaction was even less enthusiastic than Portland's. All 5 Democratic candidates for governor opposed the ban, while both Republicans favored it. The largely Democrat state legislature, strongly opposed to the measure, put it on this June primary ballot rather than on the November one. This robbed proponents of time to change public opinion about the measure, which apparently offended Maine voters, traditionally an independent and libertarian lot.

The voters probably decided on that basis: the vote was acclaimed as "an extraordinary statement of support for the First Amendment" by a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. The head of a Maine group against the referendum put it another way: "The people of Maine highly value their freedom." At least in New England, with its long tradition of decentralized power and town meetings if citizens ever do take action against pornography it will probably be on a local level.

North American Bioregional Congress, August 25-29: The second NABC will gather together ecological activists and bioregional representatives from all over the country. It will take place at the Innisfree camp site on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. People will be accomodated in cabins and tents, and everyone will be asked to pitch in on chores. Vegetarian fare will be provided.

The week will be divded in half, the first three days for a conference, with workshops, papers and panels, as well as informal sessions and exhibits. The remainder of the time will be for "congressing" in which committees will make presentations and discuss practical strategies. Registration Info: NABC II Office, Box 3, Brixey MO. 65618 (417-679-4773)

In Case of Sexual Harrassment: A booklet for college women who face harassment. Since some estimate 20% of women in college face some form of harassment,and 2% face direct threats or bribes for sexual favors, this booklet by the "Project on the status and Education of Women" should be a welcome addition to many dorm rooms. Jean Hughes, coauthor, points out, "It's one thing to know you're being sexually harassed; it's quite another to know what kind of effective action to take to stop it. Our booklet offers methods of dealing with sexual harassment that work." Copies of the book are $2.00 prepaid from the Project on the Status and Education of Women, c/o Assn. of American Colleges, 1818 R St., NW Washington, D.C. 20009.

Jailed For Peace: The History of American Draft Law Violators, 1658-1985 by Stephen M. Kohn. This survey of draft resistance and pacifism in America is available for $29.95 from Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881.

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CHUCK STONE
Reagan & South Africa

Great events in world history:

July 4, 1776, the signing of the Declaration of Independence that established "free and independent states" to pursue the American Revolutionary War.

July 14, 1789, the storming of the Bastille in Paris that accelerated the French Revolution.

May 14, 1948, the proclamation that announced the new state of Israel (and touched off an invasion by Arab armies).

June 16, 1976, the black rebellion in Soweto that cost the lives of 575 freedom fighters.

President Ronald Reagan, a flag-waving hypocrite who accepts thelegitimacy of the American Revolutionary War, withholds the same legitimacy for black South Africans.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ... whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it and institute a new Government ... (Thomas Jefferson, 1776).

Today, does any American believe the colonialists were wrong to overthrow the British government?

In order then that the social contract may not be an empty formula, it tacitly includes the undertaking ... that whoever refuses to obey the general will shall be compelled to do so by the whole body. This means nothing less than that he will be forced to be free ... This alone legitimizes civil undertakings .. (Jean Jacques Rousseau, 1762).

Does President Readan believe the French Revolution was based on "an empty formula?"

Impelled by [their] historic association, Jews strove throughout the centuries to go back to the land of their father and regain statehood ... It is, moreover, the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation ... (David Ben-Gurion, 1948)

Does anybody deny black South Africans the same "self-evident right" to statehood as the Jewish people?

What most Americans and Europeans don't deny, however, is their belief in revolution as a privilege reserved "for white only."

"What a glorious morning for America!" exclaimed Samuel Adams when he heard the gunfire at Lexington in 1775.

In 1986, why doesn't it logically follow that it is a glorious day for South Africa when revolutionary gunfire erupts across that land?

It doesn't for most Americans.

They're too busy debating the theological niceties of the medieval inquiry, how many angels can dance on the head of a pin?

Today, that debate is formulated around the "Sullivan Principles," an opportunistic compromise sacrificing South African human blood for American corporations' blood money.

Bishop Desmond Tutu has repeatedly denounced *all* American-sponsored efforts to negotiate with P.W. Botha as substantially no different than negotiating with Adolf Hitler.

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Time and time again, the South African cleric has asked — why does President Reagan support the Nicaraguan *contras* as "freedom fighters" but not the black South Africans?

The answer is simple.

Skin color.

Reagan neither supports equality for black Americans nor black South Africans.

His proposed apartheid "negotiations" are a cop-out. A people yearning to be free cannot negotiate their humanity.

Freedom can be won only by a people's willingness to shed blood for their nation's destiny.

That's why economic sanctions will not work, especially against a self-sufficient, powerful industrial complex such as South Africa.

The Boers who believe God ordained them to subjugate blacks carved that complex out of the wilderness.

They prevailed by falling back and regrouping into a "laager" to defeat the mighty Zulu nation.

Today, P.W. Botha's open-and-above-board laager reliance — similar to Reagan's subliminal Ku Klux Klan alliance — nurtures the Boer people's intractability.

But it cripples the soul of democratic government.

And Botha's time has run out.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Just as the Americans, the French, the Israelis and all democracy-loving peoples fought revolutionary wars for nationhood, so too must black South Africans put on the armor of light in a revolutionary war for their statehood.

Philadelphia Daily News

MORE SEX & VIOLENCE

The National Association of Concessionaires says a $2 tub of popcorn costs a movie theater thirty cents — a 600% markup. It's even worse for soft drinks; a 75 cent soda really costs only a dime. Candy, by comparison, is marked up a mere 200%.

It's a good thing the Wright brothers didn't know any better. A computer simulation of their pioneer biplane has concluded it could not fly. Cal Tech physicist Fred Culick says the computer is right; the Wright brothers had a faulty design, but they were lucky enough to have a strong headwind to make up for the mistakes.

The Commerce Department has issued a thoughtful press release for those who worry about the weather. Their memo warns lightning poses the greatest danger to "outdoorsmen — particularly golfers."

The Defense Department is thinking about giving civilians a chance to buy its handbook of travel-safety tips for military personnel. For the protection of those civilians reading the manual abroad, the book will not mention that it is printed by the U.S. government. One tip that could be added to the book is not to pack certain items from Banana Republic, the trendy fashion store based in Denver. According to the store, the clothes are too realistic. One is advised not to wear their jaguar-pattern camouflage in Honduras and Nicaragua and at least one story has come out of the Middle East of an American being interrogated by Arab border guards for carrying the store's "Israeli paratrooper bags."

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ESSAYS & EXCURSIONS

Len Bias: Death of an artist

Greg Berman

I followed the Len Bias investigation sadly and closely. Bias, the University of Maryland basketball star, the second pick in the NBA draft by the Boston Celtics and my favorite player, died of a cocaine-induced heart attack. I had never felt so depressed about something that had no direct effect on me. I struggled to understand why I felt his loss so dearly. I did not believe Len Bias could die, for he was not real. He was a mythical, perfect creature on the court. In my selfish world, Bias only existed for those forty minutes when the spotlight was on.

Simply put, God created Len Bias to play basketball. One look at him told you this. No less an authority than Duke star Mark Alarie called Bias, "the best athelete I've ever seen, and that includes Michael Jordan." Tall and muscularly built, Bias embodied the bizarre synthesis of power and grace that represents basketball at its best. Bias was an explosive leaper, capable of hammering home a powerful dunk over any opponent. No less awe-inspiring than his aerial acrobatics was his feathery jump shot. Bias' jumper was a thing of beauty. Elbow in, shoulders squared to the basket, Bias would release the ball at the apex of his jump, snap his wrist and follow through. It was his jump shot that made Bias special. A man of his obvious physical gifts is expected to be able to overpower and outleap his opponents. It comes naturally. A jump shot is not an instinctive craft, however. Only hard work will make you a good shooter. Bias was not content to merely rely on his prodigous natural talents. He labored to develop a shot that many small, white guards, whose domain the jump shot normally is, would kill for.

Watching Len play brought me great joy. The phrase "a man among boys" is used too often when describing basketball stars, but I can think of no better description of watching Bias play. There was always a sense that, sooner or later, Bias would do something amazing. I consider myself to be a dispassionate basketball viewer. I've seen so many dunks and moves that little can excite me anymore. It is testimony to Bias' talent that he could reduce me to a giggling idiot as I watched him in disbelief. On a selfish level, I mourn Bias' death because he had the ability to bring a smile to my face. He made me feel good.

But I will miss more than Bias' almost absurd level of performance. Bias' on court personality was as engaging as his skills. Bias' death was especially shocking because the man was so alive. His whole body seemed to radiate electricity on the court. Len was one of the most passionate players I have ever seen. Opponents tended to see only one side of his passion. Bias was often accused of possessing a surly demeanor because of his frequent use of his elbows. Most would agree, however, that Bias walked the line between aggression and violence remarkably well for a player provoked as often as he was. As a fan, I saw the other side of Bias' emotionalism, too. Bias seemed to love his game almost as much as I did. I will never forget the "aw, shucks" grin he gave after a particularly vicious reverse slam against UNLV. Bias shrugged his shoulders and held out his palms as if to say, "Wow, that was fun."

Basketball is a game of control. Every game is full of dozens of minor affronts and tiny victories. A player cannot become overwhelmed by his own anger or joy. If you lose control of your emotions, you lose control of your game. Bias had the extraordinary ability to let his emotions roam free while keeping a tight reign on his game. The effect was compelling. While Bias wore his heart on his sleeve, his play remained consistently brilliant.

Like many fine artists, Bias' craft was

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equal parts inspiration and labor. Many painters cannot express what they do on the canvas, and surely Bias was hard pressed to explain what he did on the court. Unfortunately, Len Bias will not leave us anything as tangible as a painting.

Unfortunately, many people are not going to remember Len Bias for his special ability to bring a moment of joy to the viewer. The traces of cocaine in Bias' bloodstream and his failure to pass a single course in the spring semester have led many reporters to paint Bias as a problem child. Len Bias managed to reach exalted levels of athletic accomplishment. Why must he be expected to equal this lofty status in his personal life? Athletes are not immune to societal pressure, nor should they be. At parties every week on almost any campus in America, cocaine is readily available, a recurring temptation. The sports-writers who wax indignant when cocaine is mentioned are doing their readers a disservice with their naivete. Len Bias was not a 'bad' person because he tried cocaine. It is the nature of youth to experiment. It hardly seems fair to make Bias a scapegoat for his generation's shortcomings. He was, after all, only 22 years old.

Bias' failure to pass a single course in his final semester can also be attributed to external forces. Even the most gifted of students could not manage all the demands placed on Bias in those final months. Between the travel of the baskeball team, the requests for interviews and the physicals demanded by the Celtics and other pro teams, Bias was rarely on campus. When he was, the motivation to attend classes was weak. But, again, it is hard to fault Bias for this attitude. Most people, on the brink of signing a contract that would guarantee them financial security for the rest of their lives, would encounter a similar unwillingness to go to class.

Dave Nightingale, in *The Sportling News*, accused Bias of being a fraud, asking whether he was "really the All-America boy that he had been protrayed." Bias never claimed to be infallible. It was only the press that built those expectations. Besides being a powerful anti-drug advertisement, Len Bias' death should warn us of the impossibly high standards we impose on our athletes. The ability of Len Bias to meet those standards again and again on the court lulled us into believing he was able do the same with his social and academic life.

Death must have been somewhat of a relief for Bias. No longer would he be burdened by demands of perfection. His death revealed Leonard Bias to be a talented young man, struggling with his own notoriety. He had his fears and fallacies like any other student on the verge of leaving college for an exciting, unknown world. If we are honest, we will admit that the confused, groping Len Bias in death was as 'All-American' as the seemingly indestructible Len Bias that lived on the court.

If you are looking for alternatives to travelling to Europe this year, and trying to avoid going to Disney World again, there is a new book that may solve all your problems. "Roadside America" is a the brainchild of four authors who spent two years scouring the country for bad taste. What they came up with includes roller-skating parrots outside Miami, a mechanical chicken that lays golden eggs in the Colonel Sanders museum in Louisville and a giant almalgem of the Taj Mahal and the Kremlin completely covered with ears of corn, known as the "Corn Palace" in Mitchell, S. Dakota.

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LETTERS

Metro

As *The Progressive Review*'s Sam Smith correctly implied in his article in the June 8 *Washington Post*, you can't serve the whole Washington region with one type of rail transit, particularly the most expensive type: 3rd-rail, high-platform, 100% grade-separated "heavy" rail transit.

Metrorail provides unnecessarily high service levels to an unreasonably small number of locations. Far too many area residents live nowhere near the stations. Many station-area residents must move because rents are too high. The absence of land value taxation insures that tax dollars invested in Metrorail enrich station-area landowners. Pressure for intense development at stations will never cease--even where development so far has been prevented.

Suburban Metro-inspired development, however, is largely auto-dependent. Trains approach from only one or two directions and have high fares. Stations are not within walking distance of much of the development Metro stimulated. We need feeder lines using trolley-cars (what planners now call LRV's--light rail vehicles), but we get more highways because that's what our leaders want to build. Metrorail, though a response to popular demand for mass transit, ironically has become the justification for many new highways. Metro would be much more useful if we built a Beltway rail transit line next to the existing Beltway instead of a second ("Outer") Beltway for automobiles.

As for one unbuilt Metro line, the neighborhoods between Fort Totten and Gallery Place would be far better served by a trolley (or a few parallel trolley lines) than by a Green Line tunnel. Though slower than conventional subways, trolleys are time-competitive. Making more stops, they bring more people closer to where they actually want to go.

Moreover, trolleys would have a gentle impact over their entire route instead of wreaking havoc at a couple of "stations." Trolleys combine the marketing (and reliable air-conditioning!) advantages of rail transit with the bus's "coverage." Trolleys and--where railroads already exist--commuter rail could offer analogous benefits in the suburbs.

ROSS CAPON
Executive Director
National Association
of Railroad Passengers
Washington, D.C.

Complaints

I like the PR, but America is verging towards such interesting events as:

- The collapse of the currency.
- The second coming of Jesus on TV at least.
- The appointment of a patron saint for our good old USA.
- The awakening of the people to the solidifying of the union of church and state.
- Lessening of youthful suicide and increase in the wiping out of entire families.
- Take-over of the USA by a Mexican mafia.

I will be further interested in the PR if you treat even one of these topics intelligently.

J.C.
Springfield, Mo.

You have a very good reporting in your journal. However, the broken down car you always picture with the classifieds is due to cease. It is not at all becoming and, in fact, many people find viewing it irritating.

L. S.
Silver Spring,Md.

The Review welcomes letters to the editor on any subject you think may be of interest to our readers. Keep them short and, if possible, type them double-spaced. Send to the Review, 1739 Connecticut Avenue NW.

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Ten years behind the plate

David Owen

After ten years of Little League and high school baseball, I may never play again. I'm headed for a university that has the fifth ranked college baseball team in the country, leaving only spots for future and former major leaguers. Over the past decade, baseball has been more important to me than almost anything I have done. It has brought me closer to friends and family and helped me to meet new friends. It has helped me mature and learn discipline and it has been on the baseball field that some of the craziest and most heartbreaking events of my life have occurred. Heartbreaking, like losing a game you thought you had won — in the bottom of the 12th inning, with two outs and two strikes on the last batter. Crazy, like the trip to Havre de Grace for the Little League regional championships when the team unsuccessfully tried to make it to the World Series in 100 degree heat without having had either breakfast or lunch. Crazy, like that first day at Metropolitan Police Boys Club #8 when I began my career as a catcher.

I had never played the game, let alone picked a position. On try-out day at the club, training ground for many of the city's best ball players, the new kids went through simple drills while the coaches watched and decided if they wanted you on their team. If so, they would draft you; if not, you were assigned at random. In my situation, as I recall, the latter was the case. I do remember being terrified that no team would want me and that I would become a free agent even before I knew how to hold the bat correctly. It turned out, whether they wanted it or not, that the Giants got me. The Giants, as I was to learn, were one of the traditionally bad teams in the league and usually lost about three times as many games as they won.

I came to my first real practice a few days later all excited, full of the dreams every kid had —of pitching a perfect game or becoming the starting shortstop and making some great play in the hole. As I walked onto the field I encountered a large, severe looking man with a dark square face and a gun on his hip. The man looked at me and told me that I was going to be a catcher and that if I wanted to play I had to go out and buy a cup, the protective variety, the next day. I was barely nine years old at this time and the man who was speaking to me, a policeman named Buddy Burkhead, is still remembered in DC varsity high school circles with respect and, in many cases, with memories of fear. A superb baseball coach, Burkhead runs one of the finest youth programs in the area.

As an 9-year-old, though, it was not easy for me to accept what I had heard. Catcher? Where in the world does he play? Not that really sick man who sits behind the plate and lets the pitches bounce wildly off him all day, in the meantime getting little recognition or respect for the abuse he's taking and and job he is doing. I have often heard the catcher's equipment called the "tools of ignorance." To someone who has never played the position, or the game for that matter, catchers must rank up there with NHL

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goalies and the men who jump off high bridges attached to rubber bands as some of the least intelligent people in sport, or even in existence. But a nine-year-old doesn't argue with a coach, especially when he's also a policeman.

I would learn to love the dirty, sweaty job. I could tell you that being a catcher can be as much of an art form as dunking a basketball or painting a canvas, but you probably wouldn't believe me so perhaps the best way to explain it is to take you behind the plate for just one batter's chance at the ball and tell you exactly what goes on in that little corner of the field where every important moment in baseball begins and often ends.

As a catcher, one of my jobs is to be observant, to see if a teammate is out of position, if my pitcher has a flaw in his wind-up that I can help him with, to watch the batter's stance and his swing in order to determine where and what to throw at him. The first thing I do when the batter approaches is make sure my team knows the situation and where they should be. I take a long hard look at the batter, to see what kind of ballplayer he looks like. There is an awful lot you can tell about a baseball player just by the way he handles himself when he comes to the plate. First I look at his physical appearance and his size (although not too long because this can often be deceiving). The face, though, is always a give-away. I can tell someone who wants to hit the ball from someone who is looking for a walk from someone who is scared out of their mind —just by the expression on their face. In their eyes you can spot fear or determination as easily as you can spot a 3-1 fastball. Then I look at their clothes: does the uniform fit well, are the stirrups on the right way (although one of our best hitters often wore one facing the right direction and one the wrong), what kind of batting gloves does he have, are his shoes tied correctly, what brand are they? Usually someone who cares so little that he wears torn batting gloves or football shoes is not someone who is going to have the intensity to hit the ball consistently well. Finally, and probably most important because, after all, the physical tip-offs are only based on the averages, you look at his stance and the way he swings the bat. A batter who crowds the plate and has his hands in tight will probably not be able to hit an inside fastball; someone with an open stance who is off the plate may have trouble with a curveball away.

After the batter settles in the box, I give a quick glance to coach Eddie Saah to see if he has got a pitch he wants. Saah always stands at the end of the bench, with his arms crossed and one hand dangling down if he has a sign waiting. I have always assumed that he adopted this particular pose to look as if he was being nonchalant, trying not to tip off the other team. For the most part it works, but he looks like a character on 'Get Smart.' If coach does not have a sign for me, it is up to me to call it. Deciding on a pitch, I'll usually stare straight into the batter's box dirt. Then I'll look hard into the batter's eyes, or what I can see of them from that angle, to find out if he is looking to steal my sign or if his eyes are giving something else away. With no one on base, I am usually pretty relaxed and my crouch reflects that.

The most important thing that I do on every pitch is give the umpire a good look at the pitch and make sure that I'm not stealing strikes from my own team. The other trick is learning the umpire: where is his strike zone, where does he stand, when does he call the pitch, early or late? All these things I have to try and establish within the first one or two innings. With a runner on base, particularily on first, my attitude becomes a little different. My crouch is modified to assist the quick release of the ball in case the runner decides to go. In this position, with my back parallel to the gound and my hands way up, it makes the pitches harder to frame, and it takes alot of poise and patience not to jump up in the umpire's face and block his view of the pitch while you're checking the runner.

This time the situation looks good. "One out!" I call to my infield, "Play's at first, nobody on!" That's one thing about baseball; it can be a little boring at times and it is important that your players continue to concentrate even during the longest innings. I turn to face the batter. Their number five man definitely looks like a ballplayer. I can already see the desire in his eyes and the determination in his jaw; this is the kind of hitter who is not going to give us anything. We are going to have to throw good pitches to get him out. I glance at coach, but he is busy scolding the guys on the bench for not being in the game, so

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the pitch call is mine. I look down and scoop up a small handfull of dirt as the batter stands with one foot in the box and other pointed up third awaiting a signal. Curve ball, got to be, I think as the batter steps up and settles himself in the box after knocking his cleats with the plate and digging himself in. I look up into his eyes and drop two fingers carefully placed on my thigh so that my right thigh and the glove draped over my left knee hide the signal from the other team's base coaches. The batter now takes a few swings waiting for the pitcher to go into his wind-up. As the pitcher drops his foot back and raises his hands, preparing to rear back and throw, the batter cocks himself into position and I raise myself into my crouch. A split second later it's over. My suspicions about the batter had been correct, we had thrown him an excellent curve, the kind that starts right at his head and at the last second falls off the table and breaks into the strike-zone low and away. He took this pitch, the kind of throw you reserve for the third strike in the bottom of the ninth, and fouled it off, barely fooled at all and with a beautiful swing. Now the hard part begins. Getting a strike with the first pitch is crucial, but you would much rather fool him than watch him take a cut like that. Again, I thoughtfully scoop at the hard, sandy dirt beneath my shin guards and begin to work a strategy in my mind, Another curve, then a hard fastball on the hands, and we will see what happens. I look into those confident, concentrating eyes as he stares down the pitcher; again I drop two fingers, adding a quick motion to let the pitcher know that the pitch needs to be low and outside. This pitch comes in with a flatter trajectory and breaks hard and flat. The batter takes it for a ball, but the pitch was right there.

I throw back to the mound and turn to the umpire to ask what the problem was.

High school umpires are a strange breed; many of them are former stars in the game and ump to stay in touch. Many are elderly and have been working behind the plate since long before any of the players were born, but this does not neccessarily make them good at the job. We only get about 7 or 8 umpires during a year, and so you get to know them a bit, and if you are polite, they love to talk at you. During warm-ups or between pitches, they enjoy explaining why they made a call or telling a story from when they used to play, but the moment when you know that the umpire is yours is when he turns and asks you if he missed a call. At that point he has foreited the infallibility of his calls and allowed me the opening to work him for calls the rest of the game.

This umpire is not like that; he is one of the old jokers who loves to gab, but I can only pick up about every third word as he attempts to explain why it was outside, just like a similar pitch he had called back in the spring of '49... Now the count is one and one. The last pitch was not a total waste; if you can run a fast ball in on the hands of someone you have just thrown a curve that broke away, you have created one of the toughest possible situations in which to hit the ball. So, as I wait for the batter to take his signal and make himself comfortable, I look out to see how our infield is doing. They look all right, with the exception of our right fielder, who has his arms crossed and is valiantly trying to conceal a yawn. A quick shout and he straightens up and everyone is set. I return to my crouch and signal for a fastball, hard and inside. It is another excellent pitch and badly jams him: he

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fouls the ball hard down the right field line and rattles a few brains on his own bench. I turn to the ump to get a new ball and to make sure of the count and the number of outs, I decide that we might get him with another curve. As I set myself, and again look into his eyes, I see the determination is still there, perhaps amplified. No one, especially a good hitter, ever wants to strike out. The chatter from the bench becomes louder as our team tries to increase the pressure. The pitcher nods confidantly as I flash two fingers once again. The pitcher steps back and then brings the leg up in front of him, building momentum for the pitch; the foot comes forward and the arm snaps through. I don't know when other people pick up the spin on a curve; they said Ted Williams could see it before it had left the pitcher's hand. I usually pick it up about mid-way through its flight and am then left to read the break and try to hit the ball. I do not know when this batter picked up the pitch either, but he gets it early enough to slap it hard to right field, hitting it where it was pitched. Fortunately, sleeping beauty out in right has come alive and is playing shallow enough to grab the sinking line-drive before it falls in for a hit. I walk out onto the infield grass and hold up two fingers, "Two outs, play is still at first!" I turn to exchange a few confusing words with the umpire and check out the next batter.

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I figure that something like this happened to me at least 10,000 times over the past decade, counting games, scrimmages and practices, but not counting the endless hours of pickup ball in someone's backyard or on the street. To someone who has never played baseball, never been a catcher, it may seem strange way to learn poise, leadership, concentration, discipline, a strange way to make a family closer. But it happened. And all with a stick of wood and a few pieces of leather. Amazing, isn't it?

EUGENE McCARTHY
The good of the game

The noted historian Bruce Catton wrote in 1977 that baseball is a game that cannot be ruined by forces either internal or external. The strength and resiliency of the game in the face of both internal and external change during recent years seemed to prove Catton right. Some of the changes were absorbed into the game, others were rejected. The integrity of the game remained.

Night games, artificial turf, covered parks, the use of designated hitters, although they raised some questions about the validity of statistics and some incidental aspects of the game, left the basic game intact.

There have been innovations generally associated with the terms of Bowie Kuhn as commissioner, such as the abolition of the reserve clause, the adoption of the free agent rule, three tier compensation rules, the player draft, etc. These were all designed to make teams more competitive, to even out their strength, and did not destroy the basic integrity of baseball.

Although some of these changes are questionable, they were offered under the protective standard for "the good of the game," proclaimed by the most noted baseball commissioner, Judge Kenesaw Landis, and followed faithfully by his successors. Under this standard, baseball was judge of itself like classical theatre, with its own unities of time, space and action. No higher purpose for the game was recognized, and no objective beyond the good of the game.

Thus, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and others involved in the "Black Sox" scandal were banned for "the good of the game," not to give a good example to the youth of America, or for some other "good of society."

Higher and outside purposes have been accepted for the national football and basketball organizations, but neither game, in any case, could be conceived as self-contained, or

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good in itself. National football and basketball games are interrupted so that public messages can be given in the name of the leagues. Players are presented as supporters of "Big Brothers," or "Boy Scouts" and a host of other good causes.

Now, the "higher purpose" is being laid on baseball by new Commissioner Peter Uberroth.

Uberroth comes to baseball from what has been judged successful service with the United States Olympics. Recently, he announced that new "charity elements" have been introduced to baseball through corporate sponsorships of programs. Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs and the Boys' Clubs of America will, under the new commis-sioner, become beneficiaries of organized baseball's attention.

Supplementing the Uberroth effort, some have expressed hope that baseball players may provide the initiative and leadership control to eliminate drug abuse not only among baseball players (for the good of the game), but in the whole of our society. Editors, columnists and some sports writers are calling on baseball players to be role models to be looked up to thus supplanting the traditional disposition to look up to some baseball players, to look down on others, and to be indifferent to most of them.

Uberroth's interest in higher purposes is understandable. Promoting such purposes as international understanding, world peace, good sportsmanship and the like are accepted as proper goals for the Olympics. Nothing relative to the Olympics is done simply for the "good of the Olympics."

Baseball is different. The application of the higher purpose is likely to affect baseball in a manner comparable to that noted by the poet William Stafford, when he wrote the warning line:

"If you purify the pond, the water lilies die."

CHARLES McDOWELL

Weather or not

In the old days, we wrote a lot of weather stories in the newspaper. We wrote a weather story nearly every day. We covered storms, snow, rain, sleet, sudden summer hail (especially its effect on tobacco in the field), dry spells, real drought, record cold, record heat, record precipitation and records for weather records broken in a given week or month.

If none of those things happened, we sometimes said so in a weather story.

It had to be a very plain day not to provoke a weather story. Even a very plain day could produce one if the rest of the news was sparse. A writer could go out on a summer Sunday, for instance, and report that people were having picnics in Byrd Park and playing softball and washing their cars.

And it didn't rain. Or, better, it didn't rain, although the weatherman had predicted it would. Anyhow, there was a front advancing from the west and it might rain tomorrow.

All this writing about the weather was not, in my opinion, as silly as it sounds. The weather was something that everybody shared. Even when nothing much had happened in terms of weather, it was something readers could identify with because nothing much had happened in their lives, either.

The weather story also was a relief from politics. And from crime, foreign peril and other heavy and foreboding subjects in the news. We all like to be reassured that even with the world going from bad to worse, people are still washing their cars in Byrd Park.

In the old days — I am talking about 25 years ago, not another century — weather stories were written mainly by junior staff members too inexperienced to be trusted with major beats.

The Virginia State Capitol, for instance,

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required veterans to comprehend the arcane goings-on there. Even the police beat was not open to beginners; it was covered by an older reporter who not only could outreport any rookie but had learned to write a supposedly all-protective "police said" after every statement of fact or speculation.

So the rookies were given the weather stories to work off their impatience and their bad metaphors and to test their ability to find a theme and develop it on a day when the weather itself often wasn't very interesting.

We also learned about things not to do in the writing craft. Dick Williamson, the assistant city editor, was driven to astonishing dismay by "new records."

The redundancy would not cause him to yell as he would yell at a "blizzard" used to describe a routine snowfall. A "new record" would give him greater pain than he could express by yelling; he would twist his neck and wince silently and hold up his arms to heaven. I would feel terrible every time I committed a new record, and still do, every time, all these years later.

Sometimes, if Dick Williamson was absent or busy, Frank McDermott, the city editor, would edit the weather story, Without changing expression or slowing down his pencil, he would strike the "new" in front of "record," tone down or eliminate extravagant metaphor and pacify hype.

Mr. McDermott figured that the need to discipline the prose of the young came with the territory. He was mild about it, if relentless. What made him yell — and he was an old Marine gunnery sergeant who could yell marvelously — was getting the seasons wrong.

The seasons changed on Mr. McDermott's newspaper at the time of the vernal equinox, the summer solstice, the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice. He would brook no "searing summer sun," no "lazy summer afternoon," no "summer storm swiftly striking from the west" if summer had not officially arrived in the World Almanac.

If the summer solstice was June 21, the sun and the season and the mood of humankind were stuck in spring until then, no matter how hot the day, no matter how summery the picnics in the park, no matter nothing.

I thought of Mr. McDermott when I sat down on the last day of May 1986, to write a column about the arrival of summer in Washington. It was here, the heat, the mood, the tourists, the homeward distraction of the politicians, the reporters' picnic planned for later in the day.

But for Mr. McDermott, bless him, I waited for summer until June 21.

Richmond Times - Dispatch

People & Taxes reports that if you want to avoid paying social security taxes all you have to do is register as a communist-front organization. The revenue code provides that the term "employment" does not include any services performed for an employer "registered .... under the Internal Security Act of 1950 ... as a communist-action organization, a communist-front organization, or a communist-infiltrated organization." Forms for registering your company can be obtained for no charge at your local office of the FBI.

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Graduation Eve

Anthony Arnove

A friend wrote me a letter last week. She ended by telling me to "stay well and liberal."

Well that's pretty stupid, I thought to myself. Does she really expect me to suddenly become conservative, to become someone else, to change? Does she expect me to join the John Birch Society?

Then I realized, that's what's supposed to happen to us.

Here we are about to go to college, and we're expected to change. They don't call it change, though. They call it maturing, growing up, becoming responsible.

Someone thought it would be neat if everyone stopped being themselves after they were 18.

And the scary thing is, it happens.

I talked to an older friend of mine who led a teenage life that makes my most illegal activities seem trivial. His experiences are better than some of my more creative fantasies, but now he says he doesn't do anything like that because it makes him weird.

Once you're out of high school, you can't be weird.

I thought for a while about who I'll become if I let society guide my course through life, if I become one of them. And I don't like it.

The process has already begun Whether I want to or not, I'll probably go to college. I won't think about the reasons why I'm going. I will just go. That's what I'm supposed to do.

I'll probably go to some school with a big, fancy name because I'm guaranteed some marvelous job when I graduate. It doesn't matter if the school invests in South Africa, or that it kicks homosexuals out of dorms. It doesn't matter what I want to study, either. What I want to study doesn't make any money. What I want to study, probably nobody teaches anyway.

I'll probably find a boring nine-to-five job. I'll probably start reading "Fortune" and "The Wall Street Journal." I'll probably start to like wearing three-piece suits, with a fat blue tie. I'll probably spend my earnings on things like cuff links. (Silver, with gold stripes -- only $89.95.)

Pretty soon I'll begin to destroy all the evidence of my past. I'll throw out my Bob Dylan records. I'll throw out all the books I read and enjoyed so much, like "Brave New World," "Lolita," and "A Farewell to Arms," and replace them with books on organizing my life and how to be happy or keep ahead. I'll probably join the Book of the Month Club, and read autobiographies of famous industrialists.

I'll probably join a singles organization and find an appropriate mate, whom I will marry, have one kid with, and divorce three years later.

I'll probably buy a retirement account when I'm 30 and count the days until I'm 65.

I'll probably play golf because it relaxes me. At the country club, of course.

I'll probably vote Republican.

And the scary thing is that I'm really afraid it's going to happen, and I don't know how to prevent it.

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Anthony Arnove attended Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Calif., and writes for the Pacific Youth Press.

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Violence breeds more violence, but it also breeds plain rudeness. After the French government refused to allow American fighter planes fly across France on their way to bomb Libya, American host families decided to take their righteous wrath out on would-be exchange students. About 500 French students will be staying home this summer because of retracted invitations.

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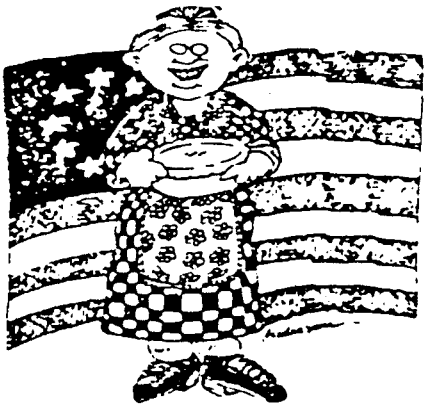

Apple Pie

Ever wonder why it's so hard to swat a cockroach? The National Wildlife Federation says it's footwork. Your average cockroach can respond to the sensation of air movement in 11 milli-seconds. That's 10 times faster than you can blink your eyes.

Clairvoyants and fortunetellers planned a protest picket line at the Long Beach, California, city hall. They said the signs were right to take their beefs about licensing fees to the city council. The stars may have been in the right place, but the city council wasn't. With four of nine members out of town, the meeting was cancelled.

With the price of oil down to 12 a barrel, you might be tempted to go out and pick one up for the rec room. Well, the Dallas Morning News says don't start moving the furniture yet. The first thing you need to do is find your own barrel: crude hasn't been sold in oil drums since Jock Ewing was a baby. Next, find a lawyer: in Texas, you need to fill out a lot of forms at the State Railroad Commission and know the laws about toxic waste handling before you can buy crude. Next, you have to find a seller. Just about anyone will sell you a 100,000 barrels, but for one barrel, your best bet is an independent driller. Now here comes the painful part: that $12 price is for oil futures. The current spot-market price is around 20-bucks, but with all the forms and regulations, a single barrel will propably set you back around three hundred bucks.

The love affair between scientists and rats continues. It seems that poorly fed rats don't squander their food when they come across a plentiful supply. Psychologists gave a underfed rats a choice of two levers: one delivered a food pellet immediately. The other gave three after a 12 second delay. The starving rats used their wits and chose the slower - - but larger - - reward. Well fed mice (the fat-cats of the rodent population?) produced just the opposite result: they went for instant gratification. The scientists warn, however, that their results may not apply to humans.

Advertising isn't working: last year advertisers spent $95 billion trying to get their message across. Here's what they got for their money: more than half the adults polled in a nationwide survey could not name one ad they had seen, heard or read in the last month. Among those who could, Coca-Cola was mentioned most often, followed by Pepsi, McDonalds and Miller beer.

The unkindest cut of all: A growing anti-circumcision movement is developing in the US — the only nation in the world where the majority of baby boys are circumcised for nonreligious reasons. In California a mother is suing the doctor who circumcised her son, claiming that parents should have the right to prior consent for medically unnecessary surgery on their children. In Pennsylvania, Blue Shield has announced that it will drop routine infant circumcision from its coverage in that state on July 1. In the 19th century it was believed that circumcision prevented masturbation, cured premature ejaculation and protected against the spread of venereal diseases.

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If you think most journalists lead exciting lives, think again. A study at Indiana University found they are pretty middle class. The typical reporter today is a 32 year old white protestant male with a bachelor's degree, a family, and a middle of the road political outlook. And journalists aren't that well paid. The median income is only $19,000 a year. Adjusting for inflation , that's about $7,000 less than average 15 years ago.

Washington DC is suffering from a monumental problem: no more room for statues. The National Park Service says only 50 prime sites remain. But Congress is already considering 17 proposed memorials, honoring everything from Korean war veterans to Francis Scott Key and Moroccan-American friendship. Arizona's representative Morris Udall wants to limit the number of statues. But as one of his colleagues noted, "the problem is, history continues to happen but spaces to commemorate that history do not increase."

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An Arkansas man has been indicted for draft nonregistation even though he tried to enlist six times and was turned down. He ignored warnings from the Selective Service because he knew the military would not take him.

The Little League of El Centro California has cancelled the rest of its season after a spectator pulled a knife on an umpire who made a questionable call. The league president said it was the last incident in a long string of abuse directed against the umpires: parents had been calling players and officials obscene names all season. Presumably not referring to the knife incident, he said fans "think they're at the major league ball park."

Collectors of 1960's underground comics are in for a pleasant surprise. A fire in San Francisco has just destroyed 200,000 vintage copies of the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, Wonder Warthog and Zippy the Pinhead. The "Rip-Off Press" comics date back to 1969 and publisher Fred Todd says most are irreplaceable.

Something Gramm-Rudman may usefully cut is the latest Washington fad: personal body guards. Democratic congressman Byron Dorgan from North Dakota wants to know why tax payers are footing the bill of $1.5 million a year to look after such high-visibility targets as the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Some officials obviously need protection, but, says Dorgan, "some of these people are not even recognised by their neighbors. How can they justify protection?"

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DC nears a trash crisis

DAVID OWEN

The Washington area is facing a massive waste disposal problem over the next twenty years and is dealing with it in the most expensive and environmentally unsound way, says Neil Seldman of the Institute for Local Self Reliance. Seldman, an expert on waste disposal, says the problem here will cost billions of dollars to solve.

The District, which produces 10,000 tons of garbage a day, is not faced with the emergency that exists in New York and Philadelphia where landfill capacity has been completely exausted, but must make a decision now in order to avoid a similar crisis.

He suggested that the present approach being taken by the District, Fairfax County and Montgomery County — the practice of building mass-burn incineration plants, is the most expensive and polluting solution available. There are far superior technologies being developed and improved every day, including techniques such as source separation recycling, composting and paper pulping, Seldman said. According to a study done by the institute, a pre-processing plant that implemented these new technologies, such as one recently built in St. Louis, can process about 2,400 tons of waste a day at a construction cost of $125 million, as compared with current mass-burn plants which process about 2,500 tons a day at a construction cost of $400 million. In addition to this, the mass-burn plants produce dangerously high quantities of lead, hydrochloric acid, dioxins and fuerons despite pollution control mechanisms — toxins that the pre-processing techniques control much more effectively.

The reduction in cost and environmental damage are not the only advantages of the new pre-processing plants, which are modeled after an Italian design. In the pre-processing process, only about 55% of the waste is actually burned, thus creating much less of the environmentally dangerous ash to be dumped in landfills. The other 45% of the waste is recycled into industrially useful materials. Among these are refuse derived fuel, which can be used as a coal

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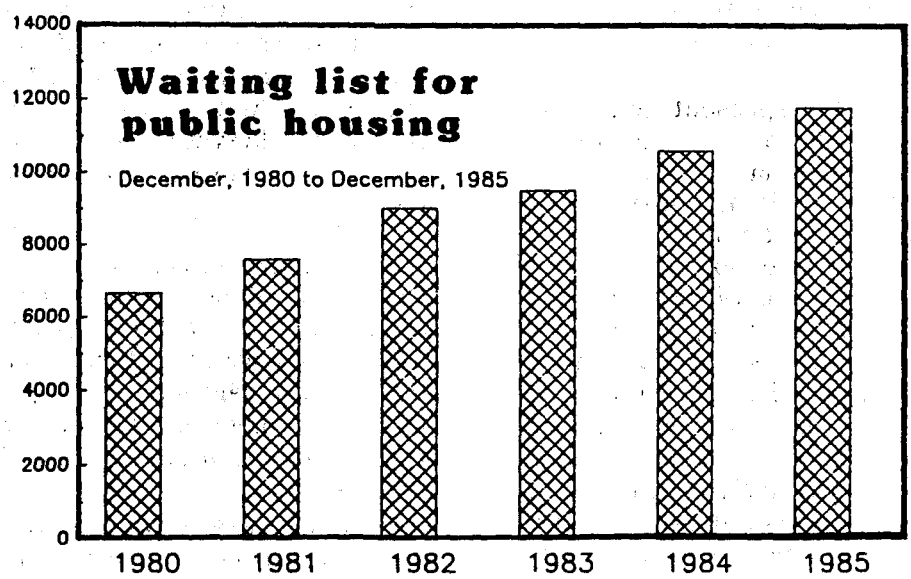
substitute and can also be made into pulp which burns efficiently and can be sold to paper companies. Because of the valuble biproducts of the pre-processing system, these new plants help to stimulate industry and create jobs. In St. Louis, a number of companies have come in and built plants to make use of the cheap plastics, RDF and pulp. Finally, the pre-processing plants appear to be much more durable, as well as efficient, at a time when the cost of running mass-burn is just starting to skyrocket. Seldman also arggues that most mass-burn plants need massive repairs, and require the lowering of environmental standards in order to operate within the law. In addition to this, Seldman says that the operational cost of the mass burn plants are too high, estimating that a mass-burn plant built today would cost $90 a ton to operate and that some plants already in existence are up to as much as $88 a ton.

[The Institute for Local Self-Reliance can be contacted at 432-4108]

In a story on tourism — in the soon to be allegedly revitalized Washington Post Sunday magazine, Bob Arnebeck points out that the number of hotel rooms in DC in 1984 was 17599, 1200 fewer than in 1960. This despite all the hoopla about new hotels and the construction of the $100 million convention center. Further, these figures conceal the fact that during this time, DC lost many low and moderate-priced rooms, replacing them with high priced ones.



The chart above, from a DC government publication, shows how the waiting list for public housing has almost doubled during the Barry administration, which rode into office in part on promising to correct the housing failures of the Walter Washington era. Now look at the chart below. It shows, by decade, the number of public housing units built in the city. Each X represents 100 units.

Public housing units built

1940s XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1950s XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1960s XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1970s XXXXXXXXX
1980s X

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Justice: The trivia squad

In one of the more absurd examples of the city relying on police power in trivial matters, a 12-year-old boy charged with kicking a playmate was locked up for seven hours in a cell at Superior Court. The child was arrested two days after the incident, after the mother of child who had been kicked filed a complaint. He was charged with a felony: "assault with a dangerous weapon, shod foot." The case follows on the heels of an earlier incident in which an 11-year-old boy was assaulted in a Superior Court cell.

In another case, a woman doctor was taken to the stationhouse in handcuffs simply because she didn't have her driver's registration.

And, most recently, two women were strip-searched after being arrested for peacefully squatting in a city-owned house.

The incidents represent somewhat extreme cases of an endemic lack of reason in handling minor law enforcement cases in the city, especially those involving juveniles. The police appear chronically incapable of drawing a distinction between a rapist and a rowdy child; a citizen who violates some minor law and a true felon. Stories of this sort crop up with dreary regularity.

There are alternatives, suggested here before, that would restore some balance and reasonableness to local law enforcement. For example, neighborhoods could have an unarmed volunteer constabulary specifically to deal with such problems as vandalism, minor larceny and boys kicking other boys on playgrounds. In fact, it is probably possible for neighborhoods to establish such a constabulary, under provisions for private security guards, without any local legislation. Communities could also establish their own "courts," local justice centers where disputes could be mediated and minor offenses could be brought for resolution before entering the grim, futile and increasingly bizarre world of downtown justice. Again, such courts could be established without the approval of city hall, much in the way that rabbinical courts operate in New York City. What would be required would be the cooperation of residents and neighborhood merchants to bring matters before the neighborhood court before going downtown. These courts could impose remedies such as restitution and community service. The offender would be made to pay for the offense in the community where it occurred. Under present law enforcement principles, the community is immediately excluded from the justice system when an offense occurs, even though the offense is against it. And matters as trivial as one kid kicking another is turned over to the police and the downtown courts.

A less controversial and simple reform would be to expand the number of offenses for which a police officer can write a ticket and then prohibit the physical arrest, booking or incarceration of someone who simply commits a ticketable offense.

One of most effective and least expensive forms of social control is that exercised by a cohesive community over its members. As we have slowly discredited and discouraged community in our cities so has our crime rate soared. Until we are willing to place the community back into our local justice system we will continue to face these high rates and stories like that of the 12-year-old shod foot felon will continue to make the news.

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Strange cheers

The enthusiasm in some quarters over Carol Schwartz announcing her mayoral candidacy seems a bit premature. Although Schwartz has both admirable and likable qualities, her politics deserve more attention from those who see her as the savior of mayoral politics. For example, she has been an opponent of rent control, has twice voted in favor of obstacles in the path of statehood, and most recently voted against a rescue plan for Antioch Law School. It is true that she is one of the few people on the council who is seriously concerned about the run-away costs of the DC government, but voters should be wary of giving her a free ride just because she isn't Marion Barry.

She is, after all, a Republican and a party regular, which means at present a Reaganite. On other hand, independent Brian Moore represents the type of politics much more in the progressive tradition. His major sin seems to be that he can't get the Washington Post to pay any attention to him. Moore, however, is a serious alternative to Barry, a community activist who has put his time and effort where his mouth is, from driving a food van for House of Ruth, to being vice chair of his neighborhood commission. A health care consultant, Moore is a strong advocate of statehood, a top leader of the DC Federation of Civic Associations, someone who understands the problems and needs of neighborhoods, and a man with a deep concern for the city. Although some of his specific proposals for the city raise questions (he wants to run public housing by private management, for example), Moore is, at the moment at least, the most reasonable alternative to Barry. Besides, anyone who has been in the Peace Corps, studied under the Franciscans, been a steelworker, mail-handler, railroad and semi-pro baseball player and speaks Spanish can't be all bad. Those interested in expressing their dissatisfaction with the Barry administration in the November election should at least consider Moore before rushing into the Schwartz camp. It will require some effort, since the Post seems to determined to pretend he doesn't exist.

Post lethargy

Speaking of the Post's coverage of local politics, the failure of any major politician to oppose Barry in the Democratic primary can be laid in part at the door of 1150 15th St. NW. The Post, which gladly spends money on polls on all sorts of national issues, has encouraged the presumption of Barry's invulnerability in its news columns but has failed to test that presumption by any polling. Some potential challengers did, however, take polls and what they found was more than a little interesting. For example, John Wilson discovered that he would lose to Barry by 52% to 22% with 24% undecided. That sounds bad except that Wilson also found that he was virtually unknown in four of the city's eight wards. An invulnerable mayor should get more than 52% aganst such an opponent. Another poll with Clarke, Wilson and Jarvis in the race found only 33% going with the mayor, hardly a resounding endorsement. Finally, when asked if they thought the city government was corrupt, 69% said yes. In short, the "invincable Marion Barry" appears to be just another mayoral hustle, aided and abetting this time by the lethargy of the Post.

The competence & compassion beat

Hizoner on the prison commission: "I was crazy enough to go for this commission idea ... I lost all my political instincts. I was naive ... I sponsored a bill that would set up a commission to study where a prison should be. Instead, the commission got into the idea as to if, not where, the prison should be. I should have gone ahead and hired an architect."

Barry's impromptu addresses are turning a bit odd. In a rambling speech to the Democratic State Convention, Barry seemed obsessed with issues that hardly seemed the making of a coherent campaign platform: the need for a new prison, why he was kicking non-paying tenants out of public housing and how, if he wanted to, he was going to take vacation no matter what anybody thought. He also startled faculty and students at a high school graduation by giving them a lecture on the importance of birth control, including ruminations on whether condoms "ruin the feelin'."

If the Barry line seems familiar, in substance if not in articulation, it's because it is becoming remarkably close to the rhetoric of the Reagan administration. One of the big questions is why. Has Barry had a change of heart or has he become in some way so beholden to the Reaganites that he must hew closely to their line? If the latter, what is the hold the Reagan administration has over him? He reversed himself on prison construction, his approach to the problem of illegal public housing tenants seems utterly devoid of human concern. He fawns over Senator Arlen Specter and is a mostly silent voice among black mayors in attacking the administration. Just what is going on here? Stay tuned.

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Supporters of a UDC takeover of Antioch Law School are outraged at the way the estimated cost of absorbing the school was jacked up by UDC and city officials during the debate. For example, the cost of providing a moot courtroom (about $700,000) was thrown in despite the fact that Antioch has functioned without its own moot courtroom. The $200,000 estimate for moving the law library also was out of line. According to the Review's John Wiebenson, an architect, the job could be done for less than $10,000. On the other hand, the figures do give a good insight into why UDC's own costs are so high.

Endorsements

In the sad charade of this fall's election we have only two additional endorsements to make: Hilda Mason and Frank Smith. Mason, one of a handful of politicians in city hall who has truly kept the faith deserves a resounding vote for her efforts on behalf of decency, compassion, and good sense in government. Frank Smith has proved to be somewhat less of a leader in city politics than we had originally hoped, but he rates a grade of B in our council scoreboard for this year. He ranks fifth among councilmembers in his support of progressive legislation and his average over the three years that we have been compiling the scorecard places him in the same position. Thus we find ourselves left with this paltry collection of positive recommendations:

FOR CITY COUNCIL CHAIR
David Clarke
FOR CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE
Hilda Mason
FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD ONE
Frank Smith
FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD THREE
Mark Plotkin

Furthermore, if you are a Democrat you can only vote for two of these in the September primary since Mason is a member of the Statehood Party. If you don't live in Ward One or Three, you can only vote for Clarke. It ain't much but it's the best we can do.

Now here is a list of people who are up for renomination in the September primary and who don't deserve your support:

Mayor Marion Barry, City Council at-large member Betty Ann Kane, Ward Five member William Spaulding, Ward Six member Nadine Winter.

Our feelings about Barry require no further amplification. Kane has been a thorough disappointment. She was once a leading progressive on the council; now, in no small part because of her cozying up to real estate interest, ranks near the bottom. Spaulding has never been much on the council other than a mayoral pawn and it is hard to see what he contributes to that body other than expense and an occasional anecdote. Winter, who can make sense when she wants to, doesn't do so frequently enough to rate more than a D this year.

Unfortunately, you can't fight something with nothing and DC's incumbentocracy is showing its power this year as never before. The opponents to these impediments to local progress tend to be unknown or unpredictable. In any case they are not likely to succeed. The one possible exception is in Ward Five, where either Harry Thomas or Robert Artisst could be counted on to improved the quality of the council. Unfortunately, as is the tradition in Ward Five, the opposition vote will be split and Spaulding once again will be the beneficiary. Like many people in Ward Five, we would happily endorse either Thomas or Artisst if one of them would drop out.

In the case of the mayoral nomination there simply is no meaningful opposition. We suggest you either vote for Mattie Taylor as a protest or write in the name of your choice — such as John Wilson, the politician who should have run against Barry but didn't. In any case, do not leave the choice blank. It only adds to the percentage of Barry's victory and you'll never get him to stop talking about it.

John Gibson, who is running against Betty Ann Kane, has been one of the minor political figures around town for a long time whose politics are quite unpredictable. There are rumors that the mayor has something to do with his running, which should raise a warning flag to the careful voter.

Again, in Ward Six, lawyer Bernard Gray is so little known that we can not positively recommend him. There are, however, a lot of folks in Ward Six who are so fed up with Winter that they don't seem to really care.

This is a pretty dismal report but until people get a little madder about what's going on in this town, it's going to be par for the course. A final linquistic note. William Safire, in his **Political Dictionary** reports that the word **incumbent** comes from the same root as "recumbent," i.e. it's someone who lies down on the job.

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Roses & Thorns

ROSES TO SID YUDAIN, who founded Roll Call, the hometown newspaper of Capitol Hill, 31 years ago and recently sold it to Arthur Levitt. Twenty-six years ago Sid hired a young radio journalist who became so enthralled with independent newspapering that he never went back to the mike. In a sense, Sid is the real founder of the Progressive Review. Which is a pretty good trick since he was a Republican. But he was also a delightful person to work for and made editing a small publication seem like the best job in the world. Thanks, Sid.

THORNS TO COMMON CAUSE for suggesting that a special commission is needed to fine-tune the city's initiative and referendum procedures. With most of the city's politicians hating initiatives, such a move could be a step towards restricting such votes so they become virtually meaningless. Initiatives are one of the few sticks DC citizens can hold over their politician's heads. Common Cause proposes, among other things, that fiscal impact statements ("developed by an appropriate District government official," no less) be required. Come on, folks, if you're not going to help, get out of the kitchen.

THORNS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD for its newly approved no pass-no play rule. For more on this, see last issue. Incidentally, the rule would affect some 1200 local athletes and 3000 members of bands and clubs.

THORNS TO THE GERTRUDE STEIN DEMOCRATIC CLUB, which gets the One Factor Analysis Award for the year, first by endorsing the mayor for re-election and, more recently, by endorsing the most conservative Democratic candidate in Ward 3, Ruth Dixon. The implicit idea that gays are unaffected by non-sex related issues seems more than a tad myopic.

ROSES TO "DIGGERS," a fascinating new film funded in part by the DC Community Humanities Council, which tells the story of the digging of the Panama Canal. Directed and produced by Roman Foster, the movie includes interviews with some of the last survivors among the 100,000 blacks from the West Indies who built the canal. Some 30,000 of these men died while the canal was under construction, victims of malaria, yellow fever, train accidents, land slides and dynamite blasts. Most of these casualties occurred during the period when the French were undertaking the project. The interviews and the old movie and still footage tell a grim and startling story that history has ignored.

ROSES TO LOCAL DEVELOPER JOSEPH F. HORNING JR. Among his peers, Horning is unique in that his building efforts have demonstrably helped the city. Since 1958, Horning Brothers has developed over 2000 housing units and two neighborhood retail centers. Eight hundred of the apartment units are operated as moderate and low-income units under various federal programs. Joe Horning has shown that you can make a living and have a social conscience as well.

Neighborhood parking

The city passed a law in 1980 that called for affordable off-street parking lots with meters in neighborhoods with commercial strips. Sort of like what one finds in Bethesda and other suburban jurisdictions. And what has the city done to observe this law? Nothing, except to adopt a draconian parking enforcement program that grosses $36 million a year and angers the city's small businesses and car owners. In a city where the government bends to every big business whim, small businesses often come out the losers. George Frain, of the 18th Street and Columbia Road Business Association told the Washington Times, "If there aren't any parking spaces, people don't come into the city. And if they get a $20 parking ticket, they never come back. They go to the suburbs where you get free parking and nobody hassles you ... The city has decided that the motorist is a fat goose to be plucked. They boot, tow, ticket, but they don't intend to provide parking because it would reduce their revenues."

Home rule assault

Supporters of home rule, beleaguered on the one hand by the seemingly unending misdeeds of the Barry administration, find themselves increasingly worried on the other by congressional intrusion into local affairs. The past year has seen more meddling by Congress in local matter than at any time since the city got its home rule charter. And it's not just limited to such well-known DC-baiters as Senator Arlen Specter. New Jersey Democrat Frank Lautenberg, who should know better, recently requested Senate hearings on whether

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A broad coalition of concerned citizens is is in the midst of a drive for the D.C. Public School Support Initiative scheduled for the November election ballot.

The initiative declares that funding for public education should be "of the highest priority" and establishes a requirement for public hearings before the Board of Education, the Mayor and the City Council.

Among the organizations which have announced their support are the D.C. Congress of PTA's, Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools and the Washington Teachers' Union.

the city's drinking age should be raised. Said one city official, "If Congress can decide whether the District should raise its drinking age, then the District has no authority to act on anything."

Furthermore. . .

Between a quarter and a third of emergency sirens used to warn area residents of natural disasters or enemy atrack were not working in March or April according to the Council of Government.

Time may be running out on St. E's (see last issue). The Deputy Mayor for Economic Development has asked for ideas on the use of St.E's west campus no later than August 9.

Techworld, the planned development monster near the convention, took out a full-page ad in the Washington Post to plead its case, complete with before and after depictions of the site. What it didn't say was that the reason the place looks so crummy now is because of Techworld's own demolitions. The ad also contained this piece of revisionist history: "The heritage of our city, its architectural moments and quality of life are a major concern of every responsible citizen. Techworld accepts this responsibility and endorses the L'Enfant Plan in its ultimate goal to create and active and successful downtown Washington." Pierre would have loved that description of his efforts.

In a blow for civil liberties, the Richmond federal appeals court has ruled that a Virginia law requiring book store owners to keep sexually explicit material from public display is unconstitutional.

Herb White, of the popular Herb's Restaurant, is hoping to reopen near 14th & R in early 1987. Plans include performance space.

Quote *from a high-ranking DC official* in the Washington Times: "They don't want to run an issues campaign. The Barry people are looking to win on charm and personality." Oh, so that's what it is.

Betsy Halsey-Russell, staff director of the local ADA, points out that DC currently locks up its citizens at a higher rate than any other developed nation except South Africa and the Soviet Union. In 1984, we imprisoned 825 out of ever 100,000 residents.

Geoffrey Stokes in the Village Voice notes that while the Post is opposing a Newspaper Guild attempt to improve parenting leave for news employees (now four weeks as opposed to six weeks at the New York Times), it has given management employees ten weeks parenting leave.

Joe Forer, local and national civil liberties lawyer since the 1940s, died recently at the age of 75. Forer was long in partnership with the late David Rein and together they became known for accepting the most unpopular political cases in the Cold War and McCarthy periods. Among their successes were a series of court victories dismantling much of the notorious McCarran Act. Forer and Rein also represented the Washington Post pressmen in their bitter 1975-76 strike. And in 1953, Forer and Rein brought the complaint that eventually resulted in a 1953 Supreme Court decision upholding DC's anti-discrimination acts of 1872 and 1873 and ordering the city's then segregated restaurants and hotels to accommodate black customers.

Ward Two's 17th street area businesses were hit with real property tax assessments "reportedly 70% higher than last year, with some increases as high as 291%," according to a letter to the Intowner from the ward's councilmember, John Wilson. Homeowners and small businesses have been strained, he said, by increases in their assessments. As a result, Wilson, who chairs the council's finance committee, feels "changes to the law may be necessary to curtail the skyrocketing of real property assessments."

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SIX DAYS IN JUNE

What the mayor does all day

Shown on these two pages is the mayor's official schedule for six days in June picked at random and compiled by Greg Berman. Outlined in black are those appointments that **do not** primarily involve politics, public relations or

	WEDNESDAY JUNE 4	THURSDAY JUNE 5	FRIDAY JUNE 6
830			
845	Press secretary**********		
900	**********	Press Secretary**********	
915		**********	
930	TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE		Present awards at**********
945	**********		Jefferson Jr. High**********
1000	**********	Present award at Cardozo High	
1015		**********	
1030			VA GOVERNOR BALILES
1045			
1100			Press Secretary**********
1115	AFSCME endorsement N/C*******		**********
1130			
1145	Photo session for Dossier****		
1200		The mayor relaxes for lunch**	Lunch**********
1215	River Fest**********	**********	**********
1230	News conference**********	**********	**********
1245		**********	**********
100		**********	
115	Receive award from UBF*******	**********	
130		**********	Present awards at**********
145	Speech at Shaw Jr. High******	**********	West Elementary School*******
200	**********		
215	**********	STAFF MEETINGS	
230	**********	**********	
245		**********	
300		**********	
315	Metro ceremony**********	**********	
330		**********	STAFF MEETINGS
345		**********	**********
400	STAFF MEETING	**********	**********
415	**********		**********
430		GSA OFFICIAL	
445		**********	
500			Interview with Dossier*******
515		STAFF MEETING	
530	Police officals' cookout******	**********	STAFF MEETINGS
545	**********		**********
600			
615			Remarks at American**********
630			Institute of Architects******
645		UDC 10th anniversary party***	garden party**********
700	Present award Woodson High***	**********	
715	**********		
730			Host aboard river cruise*****
745	Remarks Jerry Moore tribute**		to celebrate River Fest******
800	**********		**********
815			**********
830	Democratic congresional******		**********
845	dinner**********		**********
900	**********		**********
915	**********		**********
930	**********		**********
945	**********		**********
1000	**********		**********
1015	**********		**********
1030			**********
1045			
1100			

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ceremonies. News conferences are indicated by "N/C." Approximately 2 hours a day were officially set aside for what many citizens would consider the main business of the city's chief executive. Note also that the only staff person given a daily slot on the mayor's schedule is the press secretary. One top-ranking DC official told us that he might meet with the mayor no more than three or four times a month. Finally, note that the only two private citizens listed on the official schedule for these days were Carol Bellamy and Marvin Rosen, both active in Democratic politics — and neither from DC.

	MONDAY JUNE 9	TUESDAY JUNE 10	WEDNESDAY JUNE 11
830			
845			
900		Press Secretary **********	
915		**********	
930	Press Secretary **********		
945	**********		Marvin Rosen, Florida lawyer*
1000		Food sanitation excellence **	**********
1015		awards **********	
1030			Press Secretary **********
1045			**********
1100	Benning Terrace N/C *********	Present awards at Wilson High	
1115	**********	**********	
1130			
1145			
1200		Ketchum school picnic *******	Speech, human rights lunch **
1215		**********	
1230			
1245		Lunch **********	Lunch **********
100		**********	**********
115		**********	**********
130		**********	**********
145	STAFF MEETINGS		
200	**********	Child safety N/C **********	STAFF MEETINGS
215	**********		**********
230	**********	National Conference *********	**********
245		on Youth Issues **********	**********
300		**********	**********
315		**********	**********
330	US EDA OFFICIAL	**********	**********
345	**********	**********	**********
400			**********
415	Carol Bellamy **********		**********
430	**********		**********
445			**********
500	STAFF MEETINGS		**********
515	**********		**********
530	**********		**********
545			
600			
615		Cafritz reception **********	
630		**********	DC Nurses Assn PAC **********
645			**********
700			
715		Stag steak roast honoring ***	
730		Tip O'Neil **********	
745		**********	
800		**********	
815		**********	
830		**********	
845		**********	
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People: Sister Kate McDonnell

Greg Berman

"People think I'm crazy," explains Sister Kate McDonnell. "They say, 'Kate, I don't know how you do it." What Sister Kate McDonnell does is help find housing for lower income families. For the last 14 years, Sister Kate has run the Housing Counseling Services. People think Sister Kate is crazy because she is as atypical as a nun can be. A frail, elderly woman, Sister Kate eschews the quiet life that most nuns embrace. She disdains what few material pleasures a nun is afforded. Instead, she lives in inner city Washington D.C. in Sursum Corda. Sister Kate also rejects the apolitical nature of may of her peers. Testimony to her radical politics is the photograph of Fidel Castro that adorns her office wall. The room is conspicuously devoid of the expected religious icons.

Sister Kate is a compassionate woman, who sees the connection between the injustices of our capitalist system and human suffering. What's more, Sister Kate has devoted the last 17 years of her life to both changing the system and alleviating human suffering. The beauty of her work with the Housing Counseling Services is that it allows her to do both.

But Sister Kate was not always the vital, politically involved woman that she is now. For the first 35 years of her adult life, she was a math teacher. She taught at every level and lived in various parts of the east coast. Sister Kate was perfectly content with the comfortable world of academia. A trip to see the migrant worker camps in Miami changed all that. What had been very obscure was suddenly brought home in simple, human terms: the system was full of inequities. Sister Kate watched the migrant workers toil all day and then return tome to deplorable living conditions; she saw the growers become rich from the workers' efforts. Sister Kate knew then she could never return to her apolitical ways.

The Vatican II Conference (1960–1963) gave her the opportunity to act upon her newly discovered political awareness. This revolutionary conference allowed nuns unheard-of freedom. No longer was Sister Kate a cloistered nun. She was permitted to take off her habit, put on normal clothes, get a job and enter the secular world. Sister Kate did not immediately take advantage of this shift in policy, however. Although she abandoned the habit, she stuck with her traditional profession. By 1986, her dissatisfaction with teaching had peaked: "If I just taught math, I don't think that would do anything to change the system." The time to change her environment and career had arrived for Sister Kate.

Washington D.C. seemed as good a place as any to try what she had in mind. Still, Sister Kate had her doubts. So, in 1969, she looked up Rev. Walter Fauntroy to ask his advice. Could she, a nun, live in the inner city and be productive? Fauntroy's answer was unequivocal. "'Positively!' he said to me, 'You should come.'" On Fauntroy's recommendation, Sister Kate went to see Father Gino Baroni, a street priest involved in housing. Within thirty minutes, she had a new job. Father Baroni was buying inexpensive houses, rehabilitating them and then selling them to families with incomes less than $16,000. Although this arrangement lasted only two years because of lack of funding, it provided Sister Kate with her life's work. "He gave me the chance ... and I became enamored with housing."

In 1969, Sister Kate, with several other nuns, moved into Sursum Corda. Her thoughts were dominated by the question, "Why are people where they are?... There must be something in the system that keeps people this way." After five years in the District, Sister Kate began to recognize herself for what she had become: a socialist. She joined a group called Christians For Socialism that met once a week to read and discuss socialist works and issues. In 1978, with Christians For Socialism, Sister Kate had the rare opportunity to visit Cuba. She was favorably impressed. "In many respects [Cuba] has

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it all over our society, that is: compassion, caring and listening to and involving people in solutions." The physical evidence of her trip is the portrait of Castro that hangs in her office. The mental evidence was her increased desire to affect social change at home.

By the time Sister Kate returned from Cuba, she was well entrenched in the Housing Counseling Services, which she had founded in 1972. Sister Kate's job suited her perfectly. She was a counselor, which allowed her personal interaction while at the same time giving her a platform from which to attack the system. One of the dangers of her job was the tendency toward condescension on the part of the counselors. "Sometimes, you're tempted to tell the people what to do, instead of pulling it out of *them*, asking questions like... 'Have you ever thought of this option?' They make the decision or the counseling is no good." The work, although trying, had its rewards. For Sister Kate, "Seeing people hang in there and not give up is my most rewarding experience." It would be an experience that Sister Kate would witness again and again.

The main focus of her agency is to educate low income families about home-owning. But Sister Kate involves herself in much more. She lobbies on Capitol Hill, demanding compassion from the often unfeeling government. The Housing Counseling Services also runs programs with funds it receives from organizations such as the United Way and HUD. One such program "matches" elderly homeowners afraid of losing their homes with younger tenants who want kitchen access, but cannot afford a place of their own.

But, like every other agency in Washington, the life of the Housing Counseling Services is in danger. Ronald Reagan is aiming his budget axe directly at the agency's funding. Never the most well-financed of groups, further budget cuts would all but kill the Housing Counseling Services. But Sister Kate is not sitting around waiting for this to happen. Much of her time now is spent safeguarding against just such a possibility. Although she remains optimistic about the future of the agency, Sister Kate has had a hard time extracting money from charitable foundations, which are inundated with requests from organizations fearing Reagan and Gramm-Rudman.

But Sister Kate is full of inner confidence. It is this confidence that has enabled her to change careers in the middle of her life, to live in the inner-city and to fight for low income families for almost two decades. "By nature I'm an optimist, a go-getter. If I wasn't optimistic, I don't think I would've stayed at this for 17 years. There are easier, quieter things to do."

Saving Antioch

What Antioch proposes and UDC disposes, Hilda Mason is trying to resurrect. After Antioch University decided to stop supporting its DC- based law school, a variety of forces attempted to come to its rescue. The culmination was the City Council Committee on Education's decision to take over the law school, starting fiscal year 1987. Over the vigorous penny-wise opposition of Carol Schwartz and Betty Ann Kane,it voted $2.9 million this year, and approved a 3 million a year cap on city expenditures for each of the next three years.

The school places a strong emphasis on public-interest law, and requires a third of its students' credit hours to be in its free clinics scattered over the poorer parts of Washington. Not only does this provide valuable legal assistance to the poor of the city, it also means 35% of Antioch graduates go into public service law, as opposed to 3% of law graduates in general.

By acting quickly on this matter, the DC government can acquire the school before its accreditation lapses. With the new takeover plan, there will still be a gap of one year in Antioch classes: no students willl matriculate this September. The September after that, however, if the City Council approves this plan, 100 to 120 students will enter, half of them DC residents.

Under the new plan, DC residents will either pay $2,400 a year, or may go for free in return for community service.-John Plotz

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